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FBIS-SOV-92-116 CONTENTS *16 June 1992*

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FRONT PAGE

ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

Byelarus Needs 7 Years To Eliminate Weapons *[Radio Rossii]* 2
Visit to Microbiology Institute Described *[IZVESTIYA 12 Jun]* 2

Nuclear Energy Issues

CIS 'Lamentable' Nuclear State Concerns West *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 6 Jun]* 2
Shutdown of Reactors Delayed in Krasnoyarsk *[INTERFAX]* 3
Repairs Continue at Leningrad Power Station *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Wage Payment Arrears Hit Nuclear Power Workers *[Moscow TV]* 4
Nuclear Freighter Back In Service in Arctic *[Moscow TV]* 4

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Italy's Raffaelli Concerned Over Karabakh Events *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Rutskoy, Other Leaders Stop Over in Cape Verde *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Italians Obtain CPSU Finance Documents *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 9 Jun]* 5
Foreign Communist Parties Funding Described *[Moscow TV]* 6
Japan To Create Six Ambassadorial Posts *[Radio Rossii]* 6
Saudi Arabia To Expand Embassies Within CIS *[ITAR-TASS]* 7

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Baltics

Baltic Leaders Urge Soviet Troop Withdrawal *[BALTFAX]* 8

Commonwealth

Russian Neighbors Urged To Sign Border Treaties *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 12 Jun]* 8

Media

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 16 Jun 10

RUSSIA

International Affairs

More on Yeltsin, Bush Washington Summit Meeting 12
- Yeltsin on Gaydar Appointment *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
- Prospects for Talks Eyed *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 15 Jun]* 12
- Yeltsin Arrives, Agenda Discussed *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
- Delivers Address Upon Arrival *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
- Baker Seeks 'Lasting Peace' *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
- Press Secretary on Objectives *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
- Ministry Official On Expectations *[INTERFAX]* 15
- Moscow TV Previews Talks *[Moscow TV]* 16
- Yeltsin, Writer Discuss Reforms *[ITAR-TASS]* 16

Yeltsin, Ukraine's Kravchuk To Meet in Dagomys *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Kozyrev, Baker Talks Reconvene in Washington *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Eagleburger Speaks on U.S.-Russian Partnership *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Estonia To Sign Treaty To Settle Accounts *[BALTFAX]* 17
Ministry Rebuts Alleged 'Passivity' in Estonia *[IZVESTIYA 12 Jun]* 18
Border With Estonia No Longer 'Transparent' *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Shokhin Trip to London; EBRD Meeting Viewed *[INTERFAX]* 19

Rutskoy Reviews Rio Forum, Ecological Needs *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
Deputy Minister Interviewed on Arms Trade *[IZVESTIYA 15 June]* 21
Efforts to Sell MiG-29 to Germany Detailed *[Hamburg DER SPIEGEL 15 Jun]* 24
MiG Company To Participate in Berlin Exhibition *[INTERFAX]* 25
Talks Discuss Swedish Plane Shot Down in 1952 *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 12 Jun]* 25
Bilateral Planning Talks With Japan Open *[Tokyo KYODO]* 26
Japanese Ambassador Comments on Russian Reform *[INTERFAX]* 26
Chinese Ambassador Urges Cooperation in Far East *[POSTFACTUM]* 26
Enterprise Soliciting Goods From PRC Companies *[Moscow International]* 26

Federation Affairs

Gaydar Post as Government Chairman 'Permanent' *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
Filatov Welcomes Gaydar Appointment *[INTERFAX]* 27
New Ministry of Labor Formed; Minister Named *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
    Appointments Noted *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
Decree Aids Secure Government Communications *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 15 Jun]* 27
Decree Issued To Streamline Export Duties *[ITAR-TASS]* 28
    All Enterprises Liable *[ITAR-TASS]* 28
    Decree To Motivate Russian Industry *[ITAR-TASS]* 29
Decrees on Cash Circulation, Bankruptcy Viewed *[Moscow TV]* 29
Yeltsin Signs Decree on Cossacks Rehabilitation *[INTERFAX]* 29
Government Prepares To Mint Gold Coins *[INTERFAX]* 29
Government To Submit Expanded Reforms Program *[Moscow Radio]* 30
    Economist Outlines Plan *[ITAR-TASS]* 30
    Stages of Program Detailed *[INTERFAX]* 30
Nechayev Examines Grain Imports, Price Rises *[Moscow Radio]* 31
Ulyukayev Discusses Future of Ruble Zone *[Radio Rossii]* 31
    Predicts High Fuel Prices *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Foreign Economic Activity Rules To Be Changed *[IZVESTIYA 15 Jun]* 32
Yablokov Criticizes Government Energy Policy *[Moscow International]* 33
Budget Deficit Estimates at 300 Billion Rubles *[INTERFAX]* 33
Vneshtorgbank's Profits Top 2 Billion Rubles *[INTERFAX]* 33
Union Demands Liberalized Oil Prices *[INTERFAX]* 33
Rutskoy Adviser on Land Reform Package *[INTERFAX]* 34
Gorbachev Expelled From Communist Party *[ITAR-TASS]* 36
General, Adviser Volkogonov Interviewed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 12 Jun]* 37
Ambassadors Briefed on Rising Crime Trends *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 12 Jun]* 39
Yerin Views 'Serious Abuses' in Banking *[ITAR-TASS]* 40
Paintings, Icons Focus of Contraband Smugglers *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 9 Jun]* 40
Further on Government Session on Privatization *[IZVESTIYA 12 Jun]* 41
    Chubays Interviewed *[Moscow TV]* 42
National Assembly Ends; Program Adopted *[ITAR-TASS]* 43
    Sterligov Offers 'To Take Power' *[Radio Rossii]* 43

Media Issues

Ostankino Still 'Under Siege' as Talks Begin *[Moscow TV]* 43
    Staff Runs 'Gauntlet of Insults' *[Moscow TV]* 44
    Strike Threatened *[Moscow Radio]* 44
    Compromise Reached *[ITAR-TASS]* 44
    Mayor Threatens Removal *[INTERFAX]* 44
Government Leaders on 'Fourth Estate' Freedom *[Moscow TV]* 45
News Agency To Cover Political Party Affairs *[IZVESTIYA 12 Jun]* 45
Future of Radio Moscow Assessed *[Moscow International]* 45
KURANTY Announces Resubscription *[11 Jun]* 46

Regional Affairs

Dudayev Meets Abkhazia Delegation in Groznyy *[Moscow Radio]* 47
Chechen Leaders Fear Russians Plan To Invade *[POSTFACTUM]* 47
Weapons Used Against Dudayev's Supporters *[POSTFACTUM]* 47
Investigation of Chechen Funds Transfer Noted *[Radio Rossii]* 47
Russia 'Would Be Insane' To Join Ossetia Fray *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 15 Jun]* 47

Lawyers Taken Hostage Released in North Ossetia *[ITAR-TASS]* 48
Arkhangelsk 'Paralyzed,' Gas Shortage Noted *[Russian TV]* 48
Moscow Signs Trade Agreements With Republics *[Radio Rossii]* 48
Muscovites Support Yeltsin 'Overwhelmingly' *[ITAR-TASS]* 49
Moscow To Send 10,000 Servicemen to Reserves *[Radio Rossii]* 49
Nationalities Spokesman Views Tatarstan Policy *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 11 Jun]* 49
Tatarstan To Pay Share of Former Soviet Debt *[INTERFAX]* 49
Tartar Protesters Want Respect of Russian Laws *[INTERFAX]* 50
New Kamchatka Paper To Publish 'Folly News' *[POSTFACTUM]* 50

UKRAINE

National Affairs

Donbass Residents Picket Supreme Soviet *[Moscow TV]* 51
Kravchuk Visits Antonov Aviation Complex *[Kiev Radio]* 51
Procurator Called To Act Against LDP *[Kiev Radio]* 51
Officers' Union Council Voices Concerns *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 10 Jun]* 51
Ukrainian Diaspora Officers Write Draft Decree *[Kiev International]* 52
Trade Unions Seek Negotiations With Government *[UKRINFORM]* 52
Reserve Land Allotted for Private Farming *[POSTFACTUM]* 52
Two Social Democratic Parties To Merge *[Kiev International]* 52

WESTERN REGION

Moldova

'Ex-Terrorist' Accuses Ministry of Terrorism *[ITAR-TASS]* 53
Commission Drafts Document To End Conflict *[INTERFAX]* 53
Official Proposes Incorporating Guards in Army *[ITAR-TASS]* 53
Sporadic Clashes Reported in Dniester Region *[ITAR-TASS]* 54
Parliament Hears Reports on Dniester Conflict *[Bucharest Radio]* 54

CENTRAL ASIA

Tajikistan

Rumors Nabiyev Met With Former Allies Denied *[INTERFAX]* 55
Illegal Groups Reportedly Fight in Provinces *[IZVESTIYA 12 Jun]* 55
Nabiyev's Handling of Regional Clashes Scored *[ITAR-TASS]* 55
Nabiyev's Envoys Work in Regional Centers *[ITAR-TASS]* 56
Draft of Volunteers to People's Guard Begins *[INTERFAX]* 56
Presidential Car Involved in Fatal Accident *[Dushanbe Radio]* 56

Turkmenistan

Developing Privatization Program Explained *[INTERFAX]* 56
Construction of Gas Line to India Considered *[INTERFAX]* 57

CAUCASUS

Armenia

CIS Accused of Giving Arms to Azerbaijan *[ITAR-TASS]* 58
Supreme Soviet Briefed on Nagorno-Karabakh *[Yerevan Radio]* 58
    Statement on Renaming Villages *[ARMENPRES]* 59
    'Hot Debates' Reported *[INTERFAX]* 59
Law on Privatization, Denationalization Adopted *[Yerevan Radio]* 60
More on Government Protest Against Azerbaijan *[ITAR-TASS]* 60
Opposition Urges Nagorno-Karabakh's Defense *[Russian TV]* 60
Nagorno-Karabakh, Border Area Clashes Reported *[Yerevan Radio]* 60
    Turkish Role Reported *[Moscow Radio]* 61
Impact of Gas Blockade Against Georgia Noted *[Russian TV]* 61
Nakhichevan's Aliyev on Islamic Relations *[Yerevan International]* 61
Nakhichevan Talks on Railway Blockades Fail *[Yerevan International]* 62
Directorate Reports Blockade's Budget Toll *[Moscow Radio]* 62

- State Budget Deficit To Reach R20 Billion *[Moscow Radio]* 62
- Seismic Cooperation Agreement Signed With Iran *[ARMENPRES]* 62

Azerbaijan

- Acting President Issues Order on Power Transfer *[Baku Radio]* 62
- Communications Minister Relieved of Duties *[Baku Radio]* 62
  - Kodzhaman-zade Appointed *[Baku Radio]* 62
- Kamberov Holds News Conference on Russian Ties *[INTERFAX]* 63
- Foreign Minister To Participate in ICO Meeting *[ITAR-TASS]* 63
- Decision on Military Draft Law Apopted *[Baku Radio]* 63
- People's Front Issues Appeal on 'Aggression' *[ITAR-TASS]* 63
- Further Reportage on Nagorno-Karabakh Clashes *[ITAR-TASS]* 63
  - Armenian Villages Occupied *[Russian TV]* 64
  - Fighting Continues *[INTERFAX]* 64
  - Baku Radio Reports Chemical Shells 64
- Army Commander Denies CIS, Russian Role *[Russian TV]* 64
- Settlements in Nakhichevan Under Attack *[ITAR-TASS]* 65
  - Aliyev Remarks on Attacks *[Ankara ANATOLIA]* 65
- Aliyev Comments on Armenian President's Goals *[Istanbul MILLIYET 6 Jun]* 65
- Nakhichevan Asks For Turkey's Help in Language *[Ankara Radio]* 65
- Nakhichevan Food Convoy Arrives via Iran *[Moscow Radio]* 65
- Kurds To Establish 'Independent' State *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 65

Georgia

- Shevardnadze Sends Greetings to Yeltsin *[ITAR-TASS]* 66
- Shevardnadze Interviewed on Russian Relations *[ITAR-TASS]* 66
- Khasbulatov Accused of Inciting Extremists *[Radio Rossii]* 66
- Gori National Guardsmen Attack Recounted *[POSTFACTUM]* 67
  - Contradicting Reports Noted *[ITAR-TASS]* 67
- Shevardnadze: Military Favors Peaceful Solution *[Moscow TV]* 68
- 'Warning' Protest Outside Military Headquarters *[Tbilisi Radio]* 68
- S. Ossetia Appeals for Russian Intervention *[ITAR-TASS]* 68
- Protocol on S. Ossetia Signed With N. Ossetia *[IZVESTIYA 12 Jun]* 68
- Georgian, Abkhaz Deputies' Meeting Noted *[Tbilisi Radio]* 69
- Gamsakhurdia Said To Seek Azerbaijani Support *[Moscow TV]* 69
- Shevardnadze on Importance of Arms Registration *[POSTFACTUM]* 69
- Commentary on Shevardnadze's Situation *[Moscow TV]* 69
- Cooperation Talks With Iran Continue *[ITAR-TASS]* 70
- Gas Supply Agreement Signed With Turkmenistan *[Tbilisi Radio]* 70
- State Council Approves Decision To Join IRBD *[INTERFAX]* 70

BALTIC STATES

Lithuania

- Results Issued on Army Pullout Referendum *[ITAR-TASS]* 71
- Landsbergis 'Pleased' With Referendum Outcome *[Vilnius Radio]* 71
- Reports on Landsbergis Stand on Pullout Viewed *[Moscow TV]* 75
- 'Fabrication' of Landsbergis Comments Rejected *[ITAR-TASS]* 75
- Landsbergis, Walesa Talks Fail To Materialize *[BALTFAX]* 76
- Prosecutor's Office Makes Inquiry Into Coup *[BALTFAX]* 76

Lithuanian Referendum Favors Army Pullout

ITAR-TASS reports the results of the referendum held in Lithuania 14 June on the subject of the "unconditional and immediate withdrawal of the Army in the current year and compensation for the damage caused to Lithuania." "Some 76 percent of eligible citizens" participated and "almost 91 percent" favored pulling troops out "immediately" while only 7 percent voted "no." Lithuanian parliament leader Vytautas Landsbergis claims the referendum gives an "additional argument to demand" the removal of former Soviet troops and ""will bolster the Baltic states' uniform stance.""

Shevardnadze Responds To Russia's Khasbulatov

Georgian State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze accused Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, of making remarks "aimed at inciting certain circles which are noticeably becoming active right now," Radio Rossii reports. Responding to a statement made by Khasbulatov, Shevardnadze says Khasbulatov's remarks are "an insult to the sovereign and independent Republic of Georgia" and "pays tribute to the so-called legions and detachments of volunteers to be sent to zones of conflict... without taking into account the principles of national and state jurisdiction, state sovereignty, and the inviolability of territories."

Nuclear Weapons Removal in Byelarus

According to Radio Rossii, Leonid Privalov, a Byelarus Supreme Soviet deputy chairman, said Byelarus "will need seven years to rid itself totally of strategic nuclear weapons." To complete the operation "more quickly" "huge funds" are necessary, but due to budget difficulties and the need to create their own armed forces, Byelarus "cannot afford" the process. However, Privalov stressed, Byelarus has "no intention of preserving" strategic offensive nuclear weapons.

New Russian Ministers Named

By decree of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Gennadiy Melikyan has "been appointed minister of labor of the Russian Federation," Tatyana Regent appointed head of the Russian Federal Migration Service, and Fedor Prokopov became chief of the Russian Federal Employment Service, according to ITAR-TASS.

Byelarus Needs 7 Years To Eliminate Weapons

LD1506172192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] The Republic of Byelarus will need seven years to rid itself totally of strategic nuclear weapons, it was stated in a conversation with a BELTA correspondent by Leonid Privalov, a Byelarus people's deputy and deputy chairman of the republican Supreme Soviet Commission for Issues of National Security, Defense, and Fighting Crime. He said that in order to complete the operation more quickly, huge funds are needed which, considering the economic mess and the difficulties in developing a budget and creating our own armed forces, we cannot afford. However, the people's deputy stressed, Byelarus has no intention of preserving strategic offensive nuclear weapons.

Visit to Microbiology Institute Described

PM1506095392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Viktor Litovkin: "'We Have No Bacteriological Weapons,' Military Bacteriologists Maintain"]

[Text] The Russian Ministry of Defense Microbiology Research Institute is in very center of the city of Kirov. And although there is still no sign outside it, the fence surrounding it is covered with barbed wire, entry into and exit from the installation is by permit only, and this was the first time that journalists from Moscow had been allowed in here, everyone in the area knows that the institute is directly connected with bacteriological weapons.

"We have not produced any bacteriological weapons in the past and we are not doing so now," Colonel Yevgeniy Pimenov, head of the institute, stated categorically. "Our main purpose is to provide means of protection against dangerous bacteriological pathogens. And this means protection both for the military and for civilians."

Colonel Pimenov is young—he is only 40. But he is already a doctor of medical sciences, an honored Armed Forces specialist, and winner of the State Prize, and he occupies a general's post. He started off here in Kirov as a lieutenant after graduating from the Second Medical Institute, where he specialized in biophysics. The institute has 36 State Prize winners, five doctors of science, 82 candidates, and a total of 114 officers who are scientists.

What do they do? Their range of interests includes microbiology, epidemiology, immunology, genetics, aerobiology, biochemistry, biophysics, physical and colloidal chemistry, and biotechnology...It was here in Kirov that, back in the Great Patriotic War, military bacteriologists created the first industrial batch of penicillin, which saved the lives of thousands of servicemen, the first streptomycin and other antibiotics against the plague, tularemia, glanders, and anthrax....

The combined vaccine against anthrax developed in the institute is without equal in the world as regards effectiveness, the scientists claim. We were told how, during the preparations for the general attack on Iraqi positions, the American command recalled that Saddam Husayn possesses bacteriological weapons, including anthrax, and the coalition forces had only 40,000 doses of antidote for 400,000 officers and men (and even that was intended for animals).

The Americans appealed to us to sell them the vaccine, and offered us a very advantageous contract, but by the time the Central Committee and the military-industrial complex leadership had decided whether or not they should sell the antidote, time had passed and the war had ended.

The institute does not hide the fact that it works with particularly dangerous bacteria. After all, you can verify the action of a protective vaccine only by means of experiments. We were allowed to enter the building where they are carried out. But we were warned that first of all we would have to be inoculated, and following our visit to the building we would have to go into quarantine for two weeks, as the institute's employees do. Alas, we did not have the time.

But, as the scientists maintain, the following fact testifies to the level of epidemiological protection and security in the institute: A total of 1,600 people live on the territory of the scientific research institute, including women and children—the families of the most senior specialists. We saw children playing freely by the fences surrounded by barbed wire and by the bunkers.

The microbiological institute has many problems today. The main one is the lack of resources. One-third of employees have already left as a result of this. There is only enough money in the budget for earnings, there is no question of paying for the experiments, or food for the guinea pigs, mice, and monkeys. The solution lies in conversion. And there is a program aimed at this—with offers worth 8 million rubles. But the servicemen's hands are tied by the ban on their commercial activity. Admittedly, that is suitable material for another article.

Nuclear Energy Issues

CIS 'Lamentable' Nuclear State Concerns West

PM1206124592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Jun 92 First Edition p 6

[Observer Sergey Demidov "Opinion" article: "Will the West Fork Out for Our Nuclear Power Stations?"]

[Text] Someone who learns from his own mistakes will not stumble twice in the same place! Particularly when that place is peaceful nuclear energy, because the fear of taking lumps that could have a fatal outcome is too great.

However, no one is safe from the potential threat of a whole bunch of apocalyptic wounds—neither the self-sufficient Yankee nor the "Kalmyk, friend of the steppe." The recent emergency, this time at the Leningrad Nuclear Power Station, was a further reminder that the threat is not a short-lived product of the predictions of the panic-stricken "egghead Cassandras" of the nuclear era—from physicists and doctors to certain politicians.

The discharge of radioactive gases from the "Chernobyl-type" reactor (all the foreign agencies emphasized this, with good reason, in their reports on the incident) demonstrated that the very acute problem of the reliability and safety of the "nuclear generators of electricity" created in the former USSR has been overshadowed for a while. The shadow is cast by nearly 30,000 former Soviet nuclear warheads, which, since the Union's death in December, have become a headache for practically the whole world.

Despite the first really serious alarm bell that went off in Chernobyl back in April 1986, there was no particular feeling of anxiety among people in the West, not to mention the East. And the question of what is to become of the two dozen nuclear installations of "very primitive" Soviet design not only on the territory of the CIS, but also in Eastern Europe (for instance, many experts regard the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Station in Bulgaria as the most dangerous) came over very faintly, if at all. Mainly from those whose job it is to deal with the "peaceful atom" in various countries and who are known as "gendarmes" of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], which is under the UN umbrella. But not from the lips of political leaders, with rare exceptions—such as during the January visit to Washington by Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt. But the unpleasant news from Sosnovyy Bor caused a resonant echo that rumbles on beyond the Commonwealth's borders.

Serious concern, occasionally manifested as nervous anxiety (for example, the London DAILY EXPRESS urged: "Stop a second Chernobyl"), is currently being expressed in the European states that have the Leningrad, Ignalina, Chernobyl, and Smolensk Nuclear Power Stations on their doorstep. Since, as another British paper, the FINANCIAL TIMES, stresses, although it is six years now since the Chernobyl disaster, very little indeed has so far been done to prevent it from happening again.

Henceforth, without a doubt, politicians from the West and, probably, from the East as well, in their future tours of CIS republics, will raise the issue of the "lamentable state" of nuclear energy there with the same frequency and persistence as nuclear armaments were discussed during, for example, the U.S. secretary of state's visits to us. James Baker met a hail of criticism for the very fact that he was almost totally preoccupied with the fate of the former Union's missile megatons and their "fathers"—the nuclear scientists employed in the military-industrial complex. He had forgotten about the civilian nuclear power stations and the personnel operating them. The legislators on Capitol Hill who lent the CIS $400 million for nuclear disarmament, but did not allocate a cent for the improvement of these stations are also coming under fire.

I believe that officials of what was the Union and is now the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry, who are past masters at keeping secrets from outsiders—not foreigners armed with spy satellites, but their own citizens—will have to withstand repeated volleys of foreign requests for information. Following the incident at Sosnovyy Bor, the West, and the East as well, are hardly likely to decide to "rely," as Germany's NEUE ZEIT noted, "entirely on the wind being favorable and the radioactive clouds heading in the opposite direction."

No one fancies the prospect of stumbling in the same place a second time. So the question of measures to improve the safety of "Chernobyl-type" reactors and of the allocation of millions of dollars in emergency aid for nuclear energy in the CIS and Eastern Europe will be high on the agenda of the upcoming July meeting of the seven leading industrial states in Munich.

But is the West prepared to fork out?

Shutdown of Reactors Delayed in Krasnoyarsk

OW1206120992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1136 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The stoppage of two nuclear reactors producing weapons-grade plutonium in the closed city of Krasnoyarsk-26 has been put off. The first reactor is expected to be stopped in July instead of June and the second one—not later than September, although it was to be stopped at the end of August.

The administration of the local chemical and mining mill believes that the schedule proposed by the Russian Atomic Inspection Committee does not correspond to nuclear production's technological characteristics. To avoid accidents, experts prefer not to hurry.

Repairs Continue at Leningrad Power Station

LD1306194292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1355 GMT 13 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Krupenik]

[Text] Sosnovyy Bor (Leningrad Oblast), 13 Jun—Rampant rumors of continuing leaks from the Leningrad nuclear power station have been described as "no more than idle fantasy" by Sergey Galkin, a spokesman for the station's chief safety engineer. "As a professional I can assure you that there is no cause for worry, let alone for all kinds of scare stories. The operational situation at the Leningrad nuclear power station is normal and work is proceeding according to schedule," Galkin stressed. He reiterated that the first and fourth units at the station are operating to design capacity. The second is undergoing major repairs and the third is switched off following the well-publicized incident in March—and the date for its recommissioning has been postponed for a while. The reasons are not down to difficulties or complications with radiation security, but to logistical problems. It was decided to carry out regular medium-scale repairs to the third unit at the same time as on the accident-hit unit, for which components and materials produced in the ex-Soviet republics were needed. And trying to get hold of them now in Ukraine, Estonia, Lithuania, or Tatarstan is extremely difficult. Everything has to be sorted out at virtually government level. It has not even been possible to recover a debt from the Ignalinskaya nuclear power station. All this is prolonging the time needed for repairs.

Wage Payment Arrears Hit Nuclear Power Workers

PM1206193992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Video report by V. Foshchenko and V. Shishkin; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Foshchenko over video of exterior of Novovoronezh nuclear power station] The state owes more than 600 million rubles to the power generation workers who supply electricity to major industrial enterprises in the Chernozem Zone and to the population of the cities where these enterprises are located.

In turn the power workers cannot settle accounts for repair and construction work, raw materials, and spare parts to the tune of a total of 120 million rubles.

The unchecked price hikes and disruptions in the payment of wages have resulted in a substantial deterioration of the nuclear power station personnel's living standard. And this is despite the fact that they require normal food rations simply as a course of duty.

[V.A. Vikin, director Novovoronezh Nuclear Power Station] The collective is seeking ways to resolve all these problems without ruling out bringing pressure to bear, if I may put it this way, on the authorities with a view to achieving a situation whereby the collective is treated with consideration.

[Foshchenko] In order to ensure the normal operation of the station the power workers are forced to take up credits at exorbitant interest rates which, ultimately, you and I will have to pay as the price of a kilowatt-hour goes up. [video shows station exterior, control room, plant cafeteria, interview, other plant installations]

Nuclear Freighter Back In Service in Arctic

PM1206092192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0500 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Video report by V. Anuchin and A. Uchinin, from Murmansk; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The increase in fuel prices has put the existence of many shipping lines in jeopardy. As a result of the fuel crisis only 30 of a total of 80 ships of the Volga Unified River Shipping Line have left port during the current navigation season. And in the Arctic a nuclear-powered lighter carrier has been put back into service.

[Anuchin over video of Murmansk port] Dozens of ships arrive in Murmansk from the Arctic every day. The problem with this one [camera zooms in on Sevmorput] was that only six months ago this ship was taken out of service. There was no work for it on the sea lanes. It needed to be reloaded with nuclear fuel, which is not cheap. The nuclear-powered lighter carrier would probably still be at the quayside as a museum piece had not the leaders of the shipping line and of the Norilsk Nickel Concern decided to use it on the Murmansk-Dudinka route. The first experimental voyage has been successfully completed. Suffice it to say that 50 percent more freight has been delivered to Dudinka and Murmansk ports than is delivered by ships of this kind [video shows conventional freighter].

After unloading in Murmansk, the Sevmorput will head for the Yenisey. [video shows quayside, ships, including Sevmorput, control room, fuel rods being reloaded, view of the bay]

Italy's Raffaelli Concerned Over Karabakh Events

LD1306194192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2114 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] Rome, June 13 TASS—The spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy informs that the Italian president of the Minsk Conference on Nagorno-Karabakh, MP [member of parliament] Mario Raffaelli is following with deep concern and regret the news concerning the intensification of the military actions in Nagorno-Karabakh received in the last hours.

He considers that such a negative development comes when the diplomatic action implemented in Helsinki and with the different parties, including the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh, made possible to agree on the restarting of the works of the emergency extraordinary meeting of the Minsk group in Rome on June 15.

In analogy to what has been done in the past, the Italian Presidency of the Minsk Conference must consider negatively the use of force to modify the situation on the field. No change obtained in such a manner can bring to an agreed and stable solution, that remains the purpose of the peace process.

Therefore the Italian Presidency—while confirming the invitation to the Rome meeting—addresses a firm and pressing appeal to all the parties for an immediate ending of the hostilities, ending already proposed last Thursday [11 June] in Helsinki at the meeting of the CSCE Committee of senior officers where it was agreed that such ending of the hostilities will be the first issue to be considered during the works of the Rome meeting.

Rutskoy, Other Leaders Stop Over in Cape Verde

LD1506090892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0725 GMT 15 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Aleksandr Mineyev]

[Text] Moscow, June 15 TASS—Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy has returned home after a 12-day tour of Latin American countries. Its closing stage was marked by Vice President Rutskoy's presence at the World Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

Chairman of the Byelarusian Supreme Soviet Stanislav Shushkevich and Chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Ivan Plyushch returned from Rio de Janeiro in the same plane.

During a brief stop-over in the Republic of Cape Verde the leaders of the Russian, Byelarusian and Ukrainian delegations met Prime Minister Carlos Veiga of this African island state. The three CIS leaders spoke highly of the Earth Summit in Brazil. Rutskoy noted that the authoritative gathering stressed the responsibility of all countries for the ecological state of the planet. He spoke in favour of the concept in keeping with which the industrialized countries should not boost the development of their economic potential to the detriment of the less developed countries and global ecology.

Ivan Plyushch shared this view and stressed that it was not the time to haggle about the share of responsibility for the critical state of the global environment. He called for creating a practicable mechanism for the transfer of ecologically safe technologies from more developed to less developed countries.

Stanislav Shushkevich said that the Rio de Janeiro Summit solved at the political level a set of major problems. It marked the beginning of a process in the course of which political declarations would be translated into specific international legal documents.

The leaders of the three Commonwealth countries told the Cape Verde leader about their readiness to develop comprehensive cooperation with his country which occupies an important geographical position enabling it to serve as a bridge between the old and the new world.

According to Rutskoy, it is advisable to create a transcontinental airline with the participation of the four countries.

The Russian vice president invited the leader of the Republic of Cape Verde to visit Moscow.

Italians Obtain CPSU Finance Documents

PM1206150192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jun 92 First Edition p 7

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Golyayev report: "The CPSU Money: Secrets of 'Clandestine Funds'"]

[Text] Documents obtained in Moscow about the way the former Italian Communist Party [PCI], which 18 months ago was transformed into the Democratic Party of the Left [PDS], was funded from "clandestine CPSU funds," will be translated from Russian into Italian and studied in the near future. Rome's Chief Prosecutor Ugo Giudiceandrea, head of a delegation of Italian investigators, stated this on his return from Russia.

He emphasized that Russian General Prosecutor Valentin Stepankov will arrive in Rome soon. "We hope that we will succeed in answering the questions which interest him," U. Giudiceandrea said. According to the prosecutor, the Russian side hopes to reclaim the money which the CPSU granted as "international aid" to "fraternal communist parties" not only in Italy but also in other countries.

But it is important for the Italian side to determine whether this finance continued after 1989, the deadline for the amnesty for breaking the Law on Financing Political Parties in Italy adopted in the seventies. So far it has been established that money from Moscow was going to the Apennines right until 1987. The Italian side assumes that V. Stepankov will bring new documents to Rome.

U. Giudiceandrea refused to comment on the report from Moscow about a group of Italian Communists learning encryption, camouflage, and work with radio transmitters in Moscow in 1974. He emphasized that this question has nothing to do with the CPSU's "clandestine funds." At the same time, the Italian investigators requested V. Stepankov to inform them who specifically had undergone such training in Moscow.

Representatives of the former PCI, which has split into the PDS and the Party of Communist Transformation bringing together followers of Marxism-Leninism, do not deny that they received money from the CPSU, but emphasize that this funding ended in the mid-seventies on the PCI's initiative. The Italian press, however, expresses the assumption that this "fraternal aid" went on later as well. It is considered that part of the money was sent to leaders of the PCI's "pro-Soviet" wing, including via "friendly" firms and companies. According to ANSA, V. Stepankov gave the Italian investigators a list of these firms. In turn, Prosecutor Franco Ionta, who was in the delegation, stated in an interview to the newspaper LA REPUBBLICA that the investigation knows the name of the person who received money from the CPSU under the instructions of the PCI, and cultivated "economic ties" with Moscow.

"I know nothing about those new facts concerning the former PCI being financed by the CPSU and about Italian Communists being trained in Moscow," PDS National Secretary Achille Occhetto stated when speaking in Naples. "These reports should be studied carefully. There is a fierce political struggle going on in Moscow, and it is therefore reasonable to express doubts and to show reasonable caution." On the whole, the left-wing democrats' leader added, I can only say that for us the matter is "closed from the historical point of view."

Foreign Communist Parties Funding Described

LD1406172292

[Editorial Report] Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian at 1927 GMT on 11 June broadcasts a 35-minute program entitled "Doping for the Specter"—a reference to the opening sentence of "The Communist Manifesto"—or "Some Tobacco for our friends." The unidentified announcer explains that tobacco was how the CPSU referred to the money intended for foreign communist parties.

The program consists mainly of archive footage interspersed with brief interviews with various leading figures of the past. The presenter relates how the fall of communism led to the discovery of many papers documenting the money given to fraternal parties.

Anatoliy Smirnov, head of the CPSU secretariat's international section, says many documents were destroyed. However, Smirnov did not destroy his papers relating to financial donations to foreign communist parties and organizations.

The program says that even in 1990, when the USSR was receiving humanitarian aid from the United States and France, the U.S. and French communist parties received $2 million each. Many other parties also continued to receive money. Former Politburo member Yakovlev says there was some discussion about stopping the payments. Ligachev, however, says in a brief interview that when you have an onion, you share it with friends; it was right to fund foreign parties.

The program then gives a history of CPSU donations via various organizations to foreign parties since 1919. Archive footage of such figures as Ponomarev and Zaglyadin is shown. The presenter describes how the money was transferred to foreign parties—the State Bank was instructed by the Politburo to transfer money to a special bank account. After a telephone call from the CPSU Secretariat's international section, the money was then taken to its building on Staraya Square and then handed over to foreign intelligence.

Former KGB officer Lyubimov describes how he gave money to the general secretary of the Danish Communist Party.

Yakovlev says the people who headed the communist parties in countries such as Malta and Luxembourg did not believe in revolution but used the money for themselves. Often the membership of these parties consisted entirely of the people on their central committees.

The program says that many foreign communist parties—including the U.S. Communist Party—have denied receiving CPSU money. Russian Procurator General Stepankov shows receipts signed by U.S. Communist Party leader Gus Hall revealing that on two occasions he received $3 million and $2 million. He also shows a letter from Hall requesting a further $2 million.

The program gives further evidence of payments to other parties, including the French Communist Party and its newspaper L'HUMANITE, which always proclaimed their independence of the CPSU. Deputy Russian Procurator General Lisov says documents show that the French Communist Party received $24 million over the last 10 years.

The program concludes by saying that foreign communist parties cannot survive without the "doping" to which they have been accustomed.

Japan To Create Six Ambassadorial Posts

LD1306041792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] The Japanese Government reports that it will create ambassadorial posts to six CIS Republics. The Japanese ambassador to Russia will serve as Japanese ambassador to Ukraine, Byelarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan starting today and will serve as Japanese ambassador to Moldova and Tajikistan once procedural talks have been completed.

Saudi Arabia To Expand Embassies Within CIS

LD1306101492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0905 GMT 11 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Lebedev]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 11 Jun— Saudi Arabia will soon have five embassies on CIS territory. While retaining and strengthening its diplomatic mission in Moscow, which carries out a great deal of work to establish relations with more southerly republics than Russia, the Kingdom intends to open representations initially in Tashkent, Ashkhabad, Bishkek, and Alma-Ata.

A special commission has been set up at the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the instructions of King Fahd, which is to visit Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan in order to deal with the practical issues of selecting buildings for the embassies and for the accommodation of personnel of the diplomatic missions. The Saudi delegation has been instructed to meet high-ranking officials from these republics in order to discuss issues of "developing and strengthening fraternal bilateral relations," reports the Saudi press agency today.

Baltics

Baltic Leaders Urge Soviet Troop Withdrawal

OW1506184792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1835 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Estonian Supreme Soviet's press service told IF [INTERFAX] that leaders of three Baltic states, Anatoliy Gorbunov (Latvia), Vytautas Landsbergis (Lithuania), Arnold Ruutel (Estonia) signed a joint statement in Rio de Janeiro Sunday [14 June] in which they called for a complete and immediate withdrawal of the former Soviet troops from the Baltic states.

The statement says that "the former Soviet troops in the Baltic states jeopardize public security and ignore the laws of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania".

Leaders of the three states demanded that the Western countries coordinate a matter of economic aid to Russia with the Russian troops' withdrawal from the Baltic territories.

Leaders of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia attended the International Ecological forum held in Rio de Janeiro.

Commonwealth

Russian Neighbors Urged To Sign Border Treaties

PM1606090192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Jun 92 First Edition p 7

[Article by Russian People's Deputy Aleksey Surkov, member of the Supreme Soviet Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations, under "Nearby Foreign Parts" rubric: "Borders Will Have To Be Demarcated Again"]

[Text] Following the collapse of the Soviet Union its former constituent parts—the sovereign Union republics—drifting along on their autonomous course, rushed around racing each other to visit various Western and Eastern countries, as if they were hurrying to convince the world of the reality of their independence.

At best they started bidding a strained farewell to yesterday's brothers-in-Union. At worst they started drawing national maps, "incorporating" parts of neighboring territory into them.

So much for the provocative and irritating pranks of fledgling statehood. They should not become a substantial part of everyday interstate relations. But the aspirations for a strict policy of cooperation with many republics' "national patriots" (including those in Russia!) are not concealed.

But how on earth can such intentions be allowed to prevail in state policy? The historical roots of our people's fates have become too firmly intertwined, as the Fifth Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies stressed in its appeal to the Supreme Soviets of the former USSR republics.

The rapid passage of time also helps our historical indissolubility to be recognized.

Having established our "sponger" relationship with the outside world, where everything has long been politically settled and economically "sewn up," many people started to contemplate more soberly the whole ruinous effect of the abrupt dissolution of yesterday's interrepublic contacts and ties. The belief in the need to form our own open, independent Eurasian market for labor, capital, manpower, and services is starting to prevail in the minds of politicians, economists, and legislators. The sooner we grasp this reality and start applying to the building of our own interstate formation modeled on the EEC, the more quickly and easily we will be able to get out of today's total economic chaos.

As long as we do not miss the chance offered by the neointegrational unifying process which is audibly making itself heard in our difficult everyday routine. Although a dangerous obstacle is looming ever larger in its very path: the problem of border and territorial delineation.

The correctness of each independent state's actions to legalize its geopolitical area where it has territorial supremacy, which constitutes an organic part of state sovereignty, is obvious. But are the limits of our territorial independence just as clear and obvious?

Before 1917 Russia had a permanently fixed external border. The domestic administrative-territorial structure comprised the guberniyas and their groups of guberniyas—the governor-generalships. The October 1917 revolution initially destroyed the external border. Russia lost Finland (1917), Estonia (1919), Lithuania (1919), and Latvia (1920). Immediately afterward an internal redrawing started by means of an arbitrary removal (to the benefit of the revolutionary rulers' immediate interests!) of Russia's state flesh by those who set about zealously establishing Soviet power.

By December 1922 (besides the Baltic peoples, who had been lost) Russia was partitioned into six Soviet republics—the Ukraine, Belorussia, and the RSFSR itself, plus the Federation of [three] Transcaucasian Republics—which founded the USSR.

However, Russia's partition did not end there. Because of the population's substantial resistance to the insertion of the lumpenized power of the soviets into the specific structure of the Central Asian peoples, the Bolsheviks and Leninists tempted their devotees from surrounding territories by regional autonomization. If only they had secured the retention of the new power at local level.

Thus, in October 1924 Turkestan Kray was broken up into the Uzbek and Turkmen Union Republics, the

Kirghiz (the future Kazakh) and Kara-Kirghiz Autonomous Republics, and the Karakalpak Autonomous Oblasts, which were part of the RSFSR.

In 1936 the Kazakh and Kirghiz Republics acquired the status of Union republics. The Karakalpak Autonomous Oblast was initially part of the Kazakh Autonomous SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] (RSFSR territory). In 1932 it was transformed into an autonomous republic, and in December 1936 it became part of Uzbekistan.

The Moldavian Autonomous Union Republic was formed in October 1924 as part of the Ukraine. Following the return in June 1940 of Bessarabia, seized by Romania from Russia in 1918, Moldavia acquired the status of a Union republic in August 1940.

That is how the truncation of Russia generally, and the birth of new republics in particular, proceeded.

And now, in the conditions created by the autonomous regime of state existence, we must legislatively enshrine our new lines of republic borders, which in fact have never before enjoyed the status of international borders.

As is known, the establishment of state borders is a political and at least bilateral process: Contiguous countries take part in it. Initially a treaty on the delimitation of borders is prepared and signed with a neighboring state, that is, the general direction of a border's path between states is determined. A map with the border line marked on it is attached to the treaty.

After this the border is demarcated, that is, the state border is erected on the ground and marked by special and clearly visible border signs (border posts, pyramids, marker signs, and suchlike). Demarcation is carried out by joint commissions, created by the states concerned on an equal footing.

How will the border process proceed between us? Will there be enough wisdom and diplomacy to prevent the state repartition that goes back to 1917 from turning us into irreconcilable enemies and sowing the seeds of hatred and confrontation in the generations immediately following us?

What can be done to ensure that the permanent state borders between us become transparent borders of peace and good-neighborliness, and not the lines of new "Karabakhs"?

The Alma-Ata agreement on the CIS reaffirmed and enshrined our adherence to the international principle of the inviolability of borders. But this agreement (like others, incidentally) lacks a mechanism to resolve possible territorial disputes. Will we resolve them in a civilized fashion or from a position of strength?

The principle of the inviolability of borders proclaimed by the Helsinki Final Act commits states "now and in the future to refrain from making any encroachments" on these borders and any demands or actions aimed at seizing and usurping part or all of another state's territory.

At the same time this principle, like the principle of territorial inviolability recognized by international law, does not exclude the possibility of changing a state territory's borders by peaceful means through the talks process.

This mutual understanding is gradually starting to enter the practice of our interstate relations.

In particular, the Agreement on Cooperation Between the Russian Federation Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources Committee for Geodesy and Cartography and the Lithuanian Republic Department of Geodesy and Cartography was concluded 21 May 1992 in Riga. It was signed by these departments' leaders. By N.D. Zhdanov of Russia and Z. Kumetaitis of Lithuania.

Article 3 of the agreement is noteworthy: "The sides will regularly exchange geographic information (administrative-territorial division, changes in the names of population centers and other facilities, changes in the road an railroad networks, and the suchlike) about their territories.

"The sides will refrain from making on published maps any changes to the position of the state border between the Russian Federation and the Lithuanian Republic before adoption of relevant bilateral governmental agreements on this question."

The same norm in the form of an appendix was also incorporated 5.21.92 in a similar agreement concluded March 1992 by the aforementioned Russian and Latvian departments.

However, while realizing the importance and delicacy of the problem of territorial delineation between former subjects of the USSR, placing responsibility for resolving it at the level of merely interdepartmental relations would be an unforgivable mistake.

An open, interstate legal act seems necessary, which would regulate the procedure for peacefully resolving (now and in the future!) territorial disputes that arise and simultaneously contain undertakings to adhere to the act on the part of the states that recognize or are signatories to it.

At a recent two-day conference of the Parliamentary Coalition for Reforms in Russia, a memorandum was adopted from conference participants to all parliaments and governments of the former USSR's subject states, containing the proposal to join forces to draw up an open interstate convention on the inviolability of borders and the peaceful resolution of territorial questions.

The other day the Russian Supreme Soviet adopted a decision to send this memorandum to committees and commissions for discussion.

Incidentally, the memorandum stresses: "Enshrining in the said act the principle of 'the reciprocity of easing by internal legislation the entry and exit regulations for citizens of the former Soviet Union's republics' makes it possible to give maximum protection to supranational bonds of the kinship ties between our peoples, consecrated by many years of living together under a single Union citizenship."

The memorandum's text was sent out to addressees for them to elaborate their positions and make their own proposals.

Saving the peoples from interethnic confrontation is a mission of honor, given to us who are alive now by history itself!

Media

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 16 Jun

LD1606054792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0443 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent; "Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, June 16 TASS—The morning editions of today's Moscow-based newspapers highlight Russian President Boris Yeltsin's just started first official visit to the United States. All the newspapers are unanimous that the forthcoming talks at summit level will be complex in all their aspects.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) believes that the difficulties of the Russian-U.S. dialogue are determined primarily by the United States' grown might and importance in the world and by the present weakness of Russia.

Newspapers agree that the U.S. side is not prepared to be cooperative with Moscow in the field of disarmament, the rendering of specific economic assistance, or, as PRAVDA points out, will do that only in certain areas and to an extent that would meet U.S. national interests.

Touching upon prospects for the conclusion of a new agreement on cuts in strategic arms, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (INDEPENDENT GAZETTE) believes that matters will hardly go further than declarations of good intentions.

The U.S. presses hard for unilateral advantages, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA states categorically.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA is of the opinion that to secure a ban on qualitative upgrading and on the development of new types of weapons "is now even more important than to ensure a qualitative reduction in the already existing nuclear arms".

"The 'Gaydar team' has again been given a free hand by the president. It is being made clear to U.S. interlocutors that the Government of Russia does not intend to give up reforms" is how PRAVDA comments on Yeltsin's decree that placed the duties of the chairman of the Russian Government on Yegor Gaydar.

At the same time NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA describes this as an "overt political demonstration for foreign consumption", recalling that the president recently submitted a bill about the government to the Russian parliament.

The newspaper believes that the discussion of the bill will now develop into a debate on a specific candidacy for the premiership and confidence in the premier. Thereby, the newspaper maintains, Yeltsin wants "to finally do away with the 'reform-minded team' through the agency of members of parliament".

Other events that have been given prominence in the press are the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh and South Ossetia, the picketing of the Moscow Ostankino television centre by the opposition, and the results of the recent Russian National Sobor (Council) discussions.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, reporting in detail, with reference to sources in Baku, the course of a large-scale attack in Nagorno-Karabakh by Azerbaijani troops, points out that the operation was thoroughly preplanned and prepared.

PRAVDA's Yerevan correspondent asserts that the entire "armada" of Azerbaijani troops "is being directed exclusively by Russian mercenaries that joined the Army of Azerbaijan following the break-up of the Armed Forces of the former Soviet Union".

The seizures of weapons and hardware, hostage-taking, the plunder of military units—all the "arbitrariness being practised in Azerbaijan with regard to the Russian Army has apparently reached its climax", KRASNAYA ZVEZDA remarks.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, criticising the Russian leadership's attitude towards the conflict in South Ossetia, maintains that "the outcome of Russia's inaction and aloofness will be that a Dudayev version of a coup will be staged in Ossetia and Russia's influence in the Caucasus will be undermined for a long time ahead, if not forever."

Other newspapers single out a statement by Russian parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov about the Ossetian developments, describing it as a "categorical warning and a caution to Georgia".

"The opposition's drive for freedom on the airwaves is developing into a new phase," points out PRAVDA which, along with other newspapers, gives details of the opposition meeting and its picketing of the Ostankino television centre in Moscow.

Reporting a convention of the Russian National Sobor (Council)—a socio-patriotic association which is in opposition to the Russian leadership, RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA singles out the adoption of a programme "which has been thought out in every detail." The existence of the programme "propels the Sobor into the lead of the patriotic movement to consolidate it." "The patriots' degree of organisation grows from convention to convention," the newspaper stresses.

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA notes the participation of a number of prominent figures of the Democratic Movement of Russia in the Sobor convention. This, in the newspaper's opinion, "is not only an evidence of their disagreement with the present course of the country's leadership but is also the outcome of its obviously ill-considered political line".

International Affairs

More on Yeltsin, Bush Washington Summit Meeting

Yeltsin on Gaydar Appointment

LD1506131192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1228 GMT 15 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow June 15 TASS—"I will extend a hand of partnership to American people, so that our countries will never be enemies again," Russian President Boris Yeltsin said at the airport today, before flying to Washington.

Yeltsin said that more than 20 drafts of various bilateral documents, aimed to promote cooperation and deepen reforms, have been prepared for his visit.

"I believe that this is a very important first state official visit by the president of Russia to the United States," Yeltsin said.

"We should now move from talks to signing documents, which will have great political importance. These include a Russian-American charter on partnership and friendship, and a new framework agreement on deeper cuts and elimination of nuclear weapons," he said.

Asked about increasing activity of communist forces in the country, Yeltsin said that the "Constitutional Court, which opens on July 7, will put the dots" in the issue.

Yegor Gaydar is now in charge of the government, which means that he is in charge of reforms, which means that reforms will continue, Yeltsin said, explaining his decree, appointing Gaydar to prime minister.

Yeltsin said that he has an agreement with Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn to have a telephone conversation on arrival to Washington.

"I want to officially invite him to come to Russia and accept a Russian citizenship. I gave my word that we will resolve all questions connected with housing and his manuscripts," he said.

Prospects for Talks Eyed

PM1606083792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Jun 92 First Edition p 3

["Expert Assessment" by Russian Science Ministry "Truth" (Istina) Center's Department of Expert Forecasting under the "Russia and the World" rubric: "What Awaits Yeltsin in America?"]

[Text] The American press has paid B.N. Yeltsin a lot of attention on the eve of his visit. The mass media have attempted to answer several questions.

How reliable is the Russian president as the Americans' long-term partner, or, to put it bluntly, should they have anything to do with him? Washington's official approach on this matter is unequivocal. Secretary of State J. Baker has stated that Yeltsin's position has been strengthened following the Congress. CIA Director R. Gates has commented in similar vein, calling Yeltsin "an extremely intelligent and experienced politician who is devoted to democratic values."

Press analysis shows that on the whole, American society too has a positive attitude toward Yeltsin. Thus, according to data published by Gallup, 54 percent of Americans rated Yeltsin's ability to lead the country as "very positive" or "positive on the whole." Of those polled, 5 percent rated these qualities as very "negative."

"It seems that Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, who was viewed with suspicion by many people in his own country and was not taken seriously by many people in the West—they considered him a lightweight demagogue—is becoming the most interesting and influential leader of modern times." Thus begins a review in THE NEW YORK TIMES of the book "Boris Yeltsin: A Political Biography" by the Russian emigres V. Solovyev and Ye. Klepikova, which has recently been published in the United States and is in huge demand on the eve of the visit. The author of the review, the well known political analyst D. Simes, sums up the suspicions of Americans who question whether an imperious autocrat is hiding behind the image of a democrat. The authors of the book, judging by the review, attempt to refute this notion by showing that before becoming a party apparatchik, Yeltsin made a career in practical work. Hence his "intuitive understanding.... of the mood of the people." An appreciable amount of space is devoted to explaining "Yeltsin's deeply rooted fear" of betrayal, which in the authors' opinion, is a kind of persecution mania. The authors see the cause as being "B.N. Yeltsin's political lynching in 1987 and the necessity of repenting in public." While somewhat skeptical of the gushing tone of the book, Simes nonetheless concludes: "There is no happy alternative to Yeltsin in Russia. We can say that there are no other politicians in the country who could come to power if some misfortune were to befall Yeltsin."

The issue of possible successors to Yeltsin has become a major theme in the U.S. press after the president's announcement that he will not run as a candidate at the next election. The chances of possible contenders for the job of Russian leader are being considered: Rutskoy, Sobchak, Popov, and Khasbulatov. According to the press, there is no clear favorite in this list. This is clearly viewed with concern by Washington, which is striving to make long-term policy plans. Yeltsin's announcement could complicate the summit meeting, AP reports. While agreeing on the possibility of further arms reductions, and also on giving economic assistance to Russia, the administration would like to deal with a leadership that will remain in power for a long time and will show continuity in its policy. Right now Washington sees Yeltsin as the only possible negotiating partner. "Baker and other U.S. politicians, who were initially skeptical about Yeltsin, have rapidly revised their opinion. They have found that he is as intelligent as he is cooperative, and it is hard to imagine a more flexible foreign minister than Kozyrev, who is Yeltsin's man," the agency's commentary notes. At the same time, Yeltsin's announcement will prompt both sides to do far more in four years than was originally planned. This desire will be apparent at the present talks.

What topics will figure at the talks? The main topic, the press believes, is economic cooperation between the two countries and Washington's support for the Russian reforms. However, since Congress has rejected President Bush's call to adopt an aid program prior to Yeltsin's arrival, this law will not be ready for signing before the fall, and possibly not before the beginning of next year. (The newspapers are unanimous in asserting that fighting between the parties has played its part here, not a negative attitude toward Russia.) In this situation all the indications are that the White House intends to switch the Russian president's attention to the difficulties that U.S. businessmen are encountering in Russia. It is indicative that on the eve of the visit, the press has published plenty of items on this subject.

Analyzing the apparent adjustment of the course of economic reform in Russia, the newspapers express the opinion that this could lead to a slowing down of cooperation. If Russia refuses to implement the IMF's recommendations, Moscow should not expect to receive Western credits quickly. The government's plans to sharply increase the rate of emission, and also Yeltsin's promises to give new credits to unprofitable kolkhozes and state enterprises, primarily in the oil and gas industry, are causing alarm in U.S. business circles. The refusal to free the price of energy sources with immediate effect is complicating the situation still further.

The newspapers express the opinion that Yeltsin is changing his approach to the reforms and his role in implementing them. A few months after Russia embarked on the course of reforms, all the indications are that the president is reconsidering his political role. The image of the unshakable reformer is being discarded, to be replaced by the image of the father of the nation, whose most important task is to ensure stability. Whereas the former Yeltsin, the newspapers indicate, used to plow on and sweep aside all obstacles in his path, the new Yeltsin is striving to make compromises and avoid confrontation, even if the achievement of his goal requires more time. He prefers to remain in the shadows, letting the opposition assail primarily his staffers, and husbands his authority for really serious skirmishes.

Press attention is also focused on problems of disarmament. Having welcomed with unconcealed relief the signing of the protocol in Lisbon under which Russia remains the only nuclear power on the territory of the former USSR, U.S. analysts are insistently advocating that Washington push forward its formulation of a new agreement on strategic weapons. Possible options for limiting nuclear tests in the United States are also being widely discussed in response to the Russian moratorium.

The press believes that G. Bush could propose a review of the ABM Treaty to B.N. Yeltsin. The changes that Washington might insist on would enable the United States to start practical implementation of SDI. Following the collapse of the USSR, the newspapers are saying, huge holes have formed in Russia's antiballistic missile defense system. The U.S. President intends to propose free assistance in this sphere if Yeltsin agrees to introduce changes into the text of the treaty.

On the whole, then, it seems that Washington will strive to concentrate on disarmament problems, and also on the problems of political cooperation between Russia and the United States. That is, on those areas where the United States has a sincere interest in making progress. Moreover, in an election year this will indirectly give President Bush one more chance to demonstrate to the voters that America has won the Cold War.

Yeltsin Arrives, Agenda Discussed

LD1506224592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2200 GMT 15 Jun 92

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[Text] Washington, 16 Jun—Russian President Boris Yeltsin arrived on an official state visit to the United States on the afternoon of 15 June. He was met at the foot of the plane at Andrews Air Force Base by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and other officials.

During two days of talks in Washington, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and President George Bush are to discuss major issues of Russian-American and international relations. The signing of new and specific agreements in various areas is planned. At the invitation of the leadership of the United States Congress, the Russian president is to address a joint session of the Senate and the House of Representatives. On 18 June, B. Yeltsin will travel to Wichita, where he is to meet state authorities and representatives of local public and business circles.

Delivers Address Upon Arrival

LD1606050192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2258 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Report on Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin's arrival in Washington on 15 June; by unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Excerpt] Washington, 16 Jun—[Passage omitted]

B.N. Yeltsin then delivered an address. He said: Respected Mr. Secretary of State! Respected Mr. Baker! Ladies and Gentlemen! Thank you for your warm words of welcome.

The journey from Moscow is not short, approximately 10,000 kilometers. This distance has not changed geographically. We were separated not merely by a salt-water ocean not so long ago. The psychological abyss between our countries was of much greater significance.

I can now say that this abyss has disappeared. I hope that this will be confirmed during this visit, our talks, and the signing of documents. Russia and the United States are becoming friends. We share the aims of ensuring peace and prosperity for our peoples and for all of mankind.

From the first minutes of our arrival here on U.S. soil, we felt the spirit of traditional U.S. hospitality and mutually friendly understanding. It grows stronger with every meeting, and I hope that this official state visit to your country will be an important contribution to strengthening Russian-U.S. relations.

We want intensive work. The scheduled agenda includes discussions not only on topical bilateral problems but also on major disarmament issues and on consolidating worldwide stability.

My visit to your country is taking place against the backdrop of dynamic changes in Russia. In overcoming the difficulties, the Russians are creating a society of a liberated economy and of a free people adhering to the principles of democracy and progress. Every day we are aware of growing support for our reforms both on the part of the U.S. leadership and on the part of ordinary Americans. This is the best testimony to the sincere mutual understanding that is taking shape between our peoples.

On behalf of the Russian Federation, I greet the American people and wish them further success and well-being!

J. Baker and B.N. Yeltsin then answered correspondents' questions:

[Question] Some have recently suggested that you are travelling to the United States with an outstretched hand. Is that so?

[Yeltsin] I am not here with an outstretched hand. On the contrary, I have arrived to extend a hand to the President, the Congress, and the U.S. people; to incarnate Russian-U.S. partnership in flesh and blood; and to move to a completely new level of mutual relations based on treaties and laws. I think that no less than 20 documents will be signed. Russia is proud and great. She was not born to beg. We will work together so that Russia can be free, so that not merely the individual and the market economy, but all of Russia can be free, and so that Russia and the United States can defend worldwide democracy together.

[Question] Do the presidents of both countries intend to sign an agreement on major reductions to strategic nuclear arsenals?

[Baker] The presidents of both countries nourish great hope that there will be success on this.

[Question] Does the United States intend to link resolving the question of aid to Russia to signing a new document on strategic offensive weapons?

[Baker] No way.

[Question] When do you think Congress will be able to start considering the draft law on support for freedom [o podderzhke svobody]?

[Baker] We very much hope that the Senate, in full composition, can start considering it this week. [passage omitted]

Baker Seeks 'Lasting Peace'

LD1506212992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1801 GMT 15 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksandr Korolev and Andrey Sitov]

[Text] Washington June 15 TASS—The United States is seeking a new lasting peace with Russia, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said at a briefing in the White House on Monday [15 June].

He said the new peace will be based on democratic values shared by both countries rather than rivalry and fear.

Baker said the independence of former Soviet republics creates a favourable atmosphere for talks in Washington which would have been impossible during the Soviet rule.

Press Secretary on Objectives

LD1606104692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0835 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Lebedev]

[Text] Washington, 16 Jun—"Russian President Boris Yeltsin has arrived in the United States in a good mood and with an open heart in the hope that America will share with us its rich experience of building democracy." This is what Vyacheslav Kostikov, the Russian president's press secretary said here on 15 June at a briefing for journalists. "Today we have every reason to hope that relations between Russia and the United States will enter a new stage," he stressed. "Russia has crossed the abyss of communist ideology which divided our countries for many years. "We can now feel ourselves to be friends and fellow travellers," he added.

The press secretary reported that B. Yeltsin hopes to sign several important Russian-U.S. agreements in Washington. One of them could be a "framework agreement" in the area of the further reduction of the two countries' strategic offensive weapons. According to V. Kostikov, the Russian president has shown great interest in this problem recently and has paid considerable attention to it.

Concerning questions of development of trade and economic relations between Russia and the United States, the press secretary noted that B. Yeltsin had not arrived in Washington "in order to ask for extra credits". "Yeltsin wants to convince U.S. legislators and business quarters that the president and government are at present, undertaking all the necessary steps to create guarantees for U.S. investments in Russia", V. Kostikov said. "It is realized in Russia that the $24 billion which could be received from the IMF are but a small proportion of what the republic needs to rebuild from the ruins left behind by the communist regime. Russia will need hundreds and hundreds of billions of dollars. Neither the IMF nor the government can provide such money. It can only be provided by private companies".

In connection with this, the presidential press secretary emphasized the importance of the bilateral conference of business circles of Russia and the United States to be held in Washington during the visit. "The people who have come here to take part in the conference are the pioneers of Russian business, who want to cooperate with the United States and feel strong enough to enter into direct contact with business in the United States", he observed.

During the briefing, the Russian president's press secretary was asked about the withdrawal of former Soviet troops from the territory of the Baltic countries. "No political problem exists here", he said. "The political decision to withdraw the troops has been adopted. The problem is rather one of a technical nature and consists in withdrawing the troops without increasing social tensions that are already high. Russia is currently reducing its army, and if this process comes together with a very quick withdrawal of troops from the Baltic states, then this will exacerbate the problem of providing work and housing for servicemen. We would wish this to be understood in the United States, and for excessive pressure on Moscow to be avoided. A softer approach to this problem is already to be observed on the part of the Baltics. I think that the Baltics should take the interests of Russia as an equal partner into account during the process of negotiation".

Answering a question on the territorial problem in relations between Russia and Japan, V. Kostikov said: "The president and government of Russia are interested in resolving the problem of relations with Japan. This problem has not only just arisen, but has come to us as a legacy of World War II. It would be unfair to demand that a young government still moving towards democracy resolve this immediately. A phased solution would be wisest, but movement has to come from both sides here. The president has started to prepare for his trip to Japan, and during that visit there, feelers will be put out for ways of resolving this, even if a solution is not found, because this can only be resolved over a period of years".

Touching on the situation in Yugoslavia, V. Kostikov said that Russia "wishes wholeheartedly to avoid any kind of intervention in the Yugoslav conflict at all". "However, in the past year, Russia has entered a new era of politics, it wishes to be a part of the world community and to act in concert with them", he said. "If there is to be a broad consensus in the world community that any kind of measures are needed to extinguish the conflict in Yugoslavia, Russia would, of course, join with the world community".

Ministry Official On Expectations

OW1506145792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1433 GMT 15 Jun 92

[From "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Director of the Information and Press Department at the RF [Russian Federation] Foreign Ministry Sergey Yastrzhembskiy has described as "successful" the London meeting between the Heads of the Foreign Policy Departments of Russia and the US. He noted in an interview with a "DP" [Diplomatic Panorama] correspondent before flying off to Washington that in London "there had been a shift from both sides toward nuclear arms reduction".

"However," the diplomat stressed "it's still for the Presidents Boris Yeltsin and George Bush to put the final touches". As is known, the official visit by Russia's President to the U.S. begins on June 16th and ends on June 18th. After that, President Yeltsin will pay a formal visit to Canada (June 18-20).

The London meeting between Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and the Secretary of State James Baker was "extraordinary" by nature. It was required because at their meeting in Washington early last week Mr. Baker and Mr. Kozyrev had been unable to agree on the details of a framework strategic nuclear arms reduction treaty.

As a Russian diplomat has told the "DP" correspondent, this happened because "the Americans demanded too much". The U.S. offered "an unequal exchange", under which Russia would reduce more of its intercontinental missiles, making up the backbone of its "nuclear triad" than the number of sea-based nuclear missiles, similar to them in significance, which would be cut by the U.S. In other words, in Washington, the U.S. and Russia failed to come to terms on mutually acceptable strategic nuclear arms reduction ceilings.

It's not known whether the efforts toward this end succeeded in London. "I am not prepared to go into details and specify the achieved degree of consent", Mr. Yastrzhembskiy said, noting that this concerns "a very delicate sphere that calls for clarity once and for all". He suggested waiting until the meeting between the Russian and American Presidents.

Speaking about the other documents to be signed during the official visit by Russia's President, Mr. Yastrzhembskiy remarked that part of them had already been prepared in full. Among them, "a major document"—the Charter of Russo-American partnership and friendship, an agreement on cooperation in the studies and use of outer space in peaceful purposes.

However, "a host" of documents is still in the stage of coordination and additional work by both experts and appropriate institutions, like the U.S. National Security Council, for one. "Work is in full swing, but in any event, we are looking forward to signing a very big package of agreements in Washington," Mr. Yastrzhembskiy said.

Touching upon "the Canadian part" of the Russian President's trip, Mr. Yastrzhembskiy noted that on that too "we expect a solid headway in Russo-Canadian ties". He expressed hope that Mr. Yeltsin's visit would "provide a new legal basis" in relations between Russia and Canada. It's planned to sign in Ottawa a Concord and Cooperation Treaty, Trade and Commercial Accords, and an Agreement on Cooperation in the Arctic and North. Some practical understandings on cooperation in agricultural [as received] and in converting munitions production to civilian use are also expected.

Moscow TV Previews Talks

LD1606084292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2005 GMT 15 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] The official part of the visit by the Russian president to the United States will start in a few hours. One can suggest that there are many reasons why it will not be an easy visit for Yeltsin, but the main reason is the difference in the views of the leaders of the two countries on Russian-U.S. relations.

Yeltsin stated that Russia intends to preserve strategic parity with the United States, but at present, for the United States, we are just petitioners for financial and economic aid and are expected to make concessions, namely in the nuclear sphere. The program of the visit is very extensive.

[Correspondent A. Zarayelyan] Americans believe that more than 10 important Russian-U.S. documents should be signed during the meeting. The main one has already been given a name—"the Washington Charter". It is to define the joint plan of action for the United States and Russia both in bilateral relations and in the international arena.

The problem of reducing strategic weapons will occupy a significant place at the talks, the basis for it being the West's support for Yeltsin's course in Russia—and not in words, but in money.

According to Radio Liberty, the United States is trying to develop trade relations with us more actively. A treaty on double taxation will help this. It will make it more simple for Americans to do business in Russia. Yeltsin also hopes to get Bush's support in speedily getting four billion [units not specified] from the IMF which is extremely difficult to do at present as not everything in Russia is proceeding the way Yeltsin and Gaydar promised quite recently, before the G7 meeting.

A number of agreements on space have also been planned, in particular, a meeting in orbit between the crews of the U.S. shuttle and the Russian Mir orbital station.

In general, the program of the visit is extremely intensive and the relations between our countries in the next few decades depend on its progress.

Yeltsin, Writer Discuss Reforms

LD1606102892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0550 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Lebedev and Andrey Fedyashin]

[Text] Washington, 16 Jun—"Even before the beginning of the official part of his visit, Boris Yeltsin had his first talks in Washington with his great fellow countryman Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn," Vyacheslav Kostikov, the Russian President's press secretary reported here on the evening of 15 June. He said that soon after his arrival in Washington on the state visit, the president of Russia made a telephone call to the Russian writer who currently lives in the small town of Cavendish (state of Vermont).

"This was a conversation between a major world and Russian politician and a major Russian writer and philosopher," the press secretary stated. According to him, during the conversation, which lasted a half hour or so, Yeltsin and Solzhenitsyn discussed the most painful problems afflicting life in the country. "The attitude of Solzhenitsyn to the president of Russia's arrival in the United States was one of great satisfaction and he expressed the opinion that the two great states should live in peace," Kostikov noted. "Solzhenitsyn supported the reforms and policy of the president, especially with regard to land and private ownership of the land. He meanwhile requested that everything possible should be done to ensure that the Russian peasantry, on whom the well-being of Russia had always been founded, should receive land as private property as soon as possible.

During the conversation, Solzhenitsyn expressed great concern over the situation of the Russian-speaking population in other former Soviet republics. In response, Yeltsin assured him that the Russian government will do everything necessary to protect the interests of the Russian-speaking population.

According to the press secretary, "the conversation also touched upon the revival of the spiritual foundations in the life of the people". "In the words of the president, one could sense repentance, the repentance of authority, before a great writer," he noted.

"Yeltsin understands the great moral damage that was inflicted on Solzhenitsyn. His work paved the way to a truth based upon which the president of Russia is today building his relationship with the people".

Yeltsin said that Russia's doors are now wide open for Solzhenitsyn. Russia is ready to accept the great writer and do everything possible to enable him to work not in the United States, an alien land, hospitable though it be, but in his own native land.

"I don't doubt that this telephone conversation could be followed by a meeting between the president of Russia and Aleskandr Solzhenitsyn", Kostikov said. This is hardly likely to be in Washington, since the program of Yeltsin's visit is so intricate and packed that he has difficulty finding a spare moment for a meeting. "However, both Yeltsin and Solzhenitsyn are thinking about a meeting and want one", the press secretary added.

Yeltsin, Ukraine's Kravchuk To Meet in Dagomys

LD1506140792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1327 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow June 15 TASS—The Russian and Ukrainian presidents, Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk, will meet in the Black Sea spa of Dagomys on June 23, spokesman for the Russian Government Gennadiy Shipitko announced Monday [15 June].

The summit which is to be attended also by the parliamentary speakers of the two former Soviet republics is to discuss interstate relations and determine common approaches to urgent economic and military-political problems, he added.

Kozyrev, Baker Talks Reconvene in Washington

LD1606061292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0510 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Korolev]

[Text] Washington, 16 Jun—Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and James Baker, his U.S. colleague, met at the U.S. State Department on 15 June in a quest for mutually acceptable solutions to disarmament problems. The meeting was held within the context of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's official state visit.

The heads of the two countries' foreign policy departments have been conducting intense dialogue recently to reach new, even more significant nuclear arms cuts. An announcement on this may be made during the current Russian-U.S. summit.

J. Baker noted before the meeting that the sides still have to settle four or five questions, two of which are "very important and present certain problems." He confirmed his willingness to work on them, noting that he "very much hopes" for success.

The fact that the ministers spent almost five hours without a break at the negotiating table points to the intense nature of the discussions. Nevertheless, they have not yet managed to dot all the i's. This was confirmed by the Russian minister at the end of the meeting. When TASS asked whether the sides will be able to reach agreement, he replied that "work continues."

Eagleburger Speaks on U.S.-Russian Partnership

LD1506223192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1809 GMT 15 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Vanichkin]

[Text] Washington June 15 TASS—The economic future of Russia and other republics of the former Soviet Union are of critical importance to the U.S. and the international community, Lawrence Eagleburger, undersecretary of state announced today.

Speaking before 400 business and financial leaders, Eagleburger emphasised that one of the most important elements of Yeltsin's visit is the discussion of Russia's economic reforms.

"It is very important for the U.S. and Western democracies to aid Russia in its reform," Eagleburger said. He added the Bush administration has sent a bill to Congress to demonstrate U.S. support of Russia's freedom and reforms. "Several weeks ago I was in Moscow, where I met Russian officials and American businessmen to discuss the practical problems of aid. I was convinced that the majority of Russians want to increase long-term American investment in the economy of their country," he said, adding that a partnership between Washington and Moscow is required to achieve such a goal. "Only through such a partnership can we effectively aid reform in Russia."

Estonia To Sign Treaty To Settle Accounts

OW1306164092 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1607 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A treaty on settling accounts between Estonia and Russia following the issue of the Estonian krona may be signed as early as June 16—as the BF [BALTFAX] correspondent has been informed by the Vice-President of Estonia's Bank Galina Litvinova.

On Thursday [9 June] G. Litvinova met in Moscow with the President of the Board of Russia's Central Bank Georgi Matyukhin and his deputy Vyacheslav Solovov. The talk touched on some details of the treaty.

Under that document Estonian enterprises will be able to settle accounts with Russian partners both in convertible currency and in roubles. In the latter case the value of the goods or services will be assessed in Deutsche Mark and then in roubles according to the exchange rate accepted by Russia's Central Bank.

It is yet to be decided if settlements like that should be carried out by a bank specially authorized for the purpose or by any commercial banks.

On the same day G. Litvinova held talks with the leaders of Russia's State Committee on Economic Cooperation with the CIS Members. The Russian side submitted a draft agreement on goods turnover following the issue of the krona. This provides for trade at free prices and settlements in roubles, kronas, or hard currency.

In an interview with BF G.Litvinova said the Estonian side will be ready to sign the treaty next week.

Ministry Rebuts Alleged 'Passivity' in Estonia

PM1506153792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 6

[Letter from Vyacheslav Yelagin, adviser to Russian Federation Foreign Ministry Information and Press Department, under the "From International Departments' Mail" rubric: "Russian Foreign Ministry Should Not Be Accused of Passivity"]

[Text] IZVESTIYA 27 May (No. 123) carried the O. Latsis report "The Army Has the Right To Leave With Honor" in connection with the fact of the seizure of the territory of the Russian antiaircraft missile regiment in the Estonian city of Valga. The author's patriotic and civic position concerning the need to defend the honor and dignity of the Russian servicemen stationed in the Baltic countries is not in doubt. It is fully shared at the Russian Foreign Ministry.

It is impossible, however, to agree with the charges of passivity against the Russian Foreign Ministry in connection with this incident. The author has no grounds for making a statement of that kind. The Russian Foreign Ministry is monitoring the situation concerning the presence of our servicemen and doing everything necessary to protect them. In connection with this action the Russian Foreign Ministry has demanded, in a protest note sent to the Estonian Embassy in Moscow, the immediate release of the Russian Air Force's military installation, as well as the holding of an investigation and punishment for the guilty parties.

A. Kozyrev's speech at the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers in Strasbourg made an assessment of the state of affairs with regard to human rights in the Baltic countries. The assessment was also reflected in a memorandum on human rights violations in that region conveyed to the chairman of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers. The Russian Foreign Ministry considers it important to utilize the CSCE mechanism as well.

F. Shelov-Kovedyayev, Russian first deputy foreign minister and the Russian Federation president's special representative, visited the Baltic countries at the beginning of May. One of the main items on the agenda of the bilateral talks with the leadership of all three states was the problem of the troop withdrawal. It is not our fault that specific decisions have not been adopted. At the same time the ministry's expert groups are continuing active work in this direction, about which we regularly inform the public. The press also draws attention to this.

Thus, a number of Russian newspapers have given an account of the contents of notes sent by the Russian Foreign Ministry to the Embassy of the Estonian Republic in Moscow on 7 March and 31 March this year, which pointed to a violation of the rights of a considerable section of the population of Estonia.

In addition, the Foreign Ministry is introducing legal forms of the protection of Russian servicemen involving diplomatic and consular methods. A Russian officer arrested in Lithuania was released recently with the help of our consular workers. I could cite many other examples attesting to consistent work for the protection of Russian citizens in the Baltic states. This activity is being stepped up with the opening of Russian embassies there.

It is quite possible that, when preparing the reports, the author did not know of the ministry's aforementioned foreign policy steps in defense of Russians in the Baltic, including the servicemen stationed there under Russian jurisdiction. It is, of course, a pity that he did not consider it possible to turn to the ministry, where he would have readily been furnished with the appropriate information on the actual state of affairs.

Border With Estonia No Longer 'Transparent'

LD1506170792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1555 GMT 15 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Kondratenko]

[Text] St. Petersburg June 15 TASS—Estonian territorial claims to a part of the Russian Leningrad and Pskov regions are the main obstacle for working out an agreement on borders between the two former Soviet republics, according to Aleksandr Viktorov, head of the Russian group discussing border issues at talks with Estonia.

"Such an approach is inadmissible to us", he told TASS on Monday [15 June], but added negotiations will continue.

The group headed by Viktorov worked out an agreement on customs cooperation and "we hope it will be initialled", he said.

Viktorenko warned the border between Russia and Estonia will no longer be "transparent" and customs check points might appear on the Russian side.

The Estonian authorities have long ago instituted customs control on their side of the border, while the absence of customs on the Russian side results in an uncontrolled outflow of raw materials, oil, metals, consumer goods and cultural valuables, he complained.

However, there will be no barbed wire along the border, Viktorov said, adding it should be a border of "friendship and cooperation".

Shokhin Trip to London; EBRD Meeting Viewed

OW1506141392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1311 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Interview with Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin by Kirill Dibrova; place and date not given; from the 12 June edition of "Nation & Society"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin, who is also Labour and Employment Minister, has been appointed supervisor of Russia's external economic activity. He has discussed his first steps in the new capacity and the government's social policy plans in an interview granted to IF's [INTERFAX's] reporter Kirill Dibrova.

Corr.: You are fresh from London, where you attended a session of the board of governors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD]. What can you say about the results of the trip?

SHOKHIN: From London we have brought the bank's authorized strategy for Russia in 1992. The Russian Government and the bank's experts have formulated EBRD priorities in its policies towards this country. These priorities are largely identical to ours, included in the medium-term program for economic reforms.

Any bank is an organization little interested in the whole set of macro-economic problems. It focuses itself on financing specific projects. For that reason the EBRD would be very much interested in spotting priority areas for investment. Our negotiations named the following: agriculture and the processing of farm produce, the fuel and energy complex and the conversion of defence industries.

There are two more priorities standing separately: privatization, which the European Bank is going to support in every possible way, because it is one of its strategic goals to promote private enterprise, and the safety of nuclear reactors.

At first sight it might seem that this is a rather limited sphere, however, all international organizations are studying this question in earnest. For instance, it is going to feature on the agenda of the G7 summit in Munich. The European Bank has taken great interest in that problem, too.

Corr.: What are the subsidies the bank is ready to give Russia?

SHOKHIN: That was a very special question. The Russian delegates, including the president of the Central Bank of Russia, Georgy Hatiukhin, said: Tell us how much you will give us, and we will find what to spend the money on. The board of governors and the President of the European Bank argued they would like to have specific projects first, and then they would decide which of them deserve the guarantees of the Russian Government and, consequently, the bank's participation. The more feasible projects there are, the greater chances the European Bank will have to find the necessary resources.

As far as I know from private discussions with individual members of the board of governors and the President of the European Bank, the bank will be able to give Russia $700 million this year.

Corr.: What system of crediting did you agree on?

SHOKHIN: In the end we managed to find areas of agreement. We decided that the bank must have certain bearings to give credits in case specific projects are named. Our basic problem now is to offer reliable projects.

Until recently credits were tantamount to free gifts for the recipients and users. Now, that we give government guarantees for specific projects, we are going to commercialize the process of credit-giving. As a matter of fact, we are going to sell credits in order to make the recipient organization pay them in rubles fully or partially. That would be a new system of credit distribution.

Corr.: Has a list of projects to be financed by EBRD credits been defined already?

SHOKHIN: There have been quite a few requests. However, there emerges the question of determining the EBRD's niche in the entity of credit lines from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the European Community and those opened under bilateral agreements.

The functions of these flows of aid must be clearly separated.

For instance, take the safety of nuclear reactors. The European Bank could undertake to finance the feasibility studies, the examination of all reactors and the development of a program for action. Other organizations would implement the project in practice.

We discussed that possibility to come to the conclusion that there has to be some kind of coordinating machinery that would monitor the activity of all international organizations in Russia. That would rule out redundant steps and help achieve a clear division of labour.

There is another issue we paid attention to, that of a European status for all projects to be carried out in Russia. The bank should see to it that projects in Russia and similar ones in other CIS member-states and European countries should match well. Plans for building a pipe-line from the Tengiz oil field towards Novorossiisk is an example. Under the aegis of the European Bank it could be carried out together with Russia, Kazakhstan and probably, with Azerbaijan.

The point at issue is that the EBRD should become a financial and credit nucleus of greater Europe. That idea has met with support from the European Bank's board of governors.

Corr.: It has been decided in principle that you will step down as Labour and Employment Minister. Are there any contenders for that post?

SHOKHIN: There are many of them. I have long looked for a successor. The person who will take the post is to have not only professional skills, but a common language with workers, too, and not only at the negotiating table, but at rallies and on the sites of strikes, too. It is clear that at a time when reforms are going on the job of the Labour and Employment Minister is one of the most unrewarding ones, because his ministry has to get all the blows.

Corr.: Do you want to resign as Labour and Employment Minister?

SHOKHIN: True, it would be very fine to leave the battlefield and get back into the trenches. However, as a matter of fact there are no trenches as far as government activity is concerned. Deplorably, it is very hard to find a good substitute. In the current Cabinet nobody, except Yegor Gaydar, can do the job. However, Gaydar cannot do everything. I don't know how the question will be settled. In any case, I would not like a new appointment to upset business.

Corr.: The government is reconsidering work incentives in the budgetary branches of the economy. What is the gist of likely changes?

SHOKHIN: The government's decision to raise wages in the budget-financed branches of the economy 80% says that proposals should be drawn up within one month for putting pay rises and additional payments in education and the health service in order. We have done that. Probably, we were in a hurry and missed something, but we did exactly what we were going to. We reformed the system of incentives. All additional payments and bonuses are now computed as a certain share of the fixed pay rate. The new mechanism makes it possible to take away bonuses from sloppy workers to give them to those who worked well. Besides, the system will be reformed still further.

We have continued studying this problem and are going to reconsider the whole list of increments and bonuses. We will abolish some and introduce others. We hope that we will be able to make the new universal pay principles in the budgetary sphere work as of the third quarter of the year.

Corr.: Yegor Gaydar has said that we have too many educational establishments that train poor personnel. About the health service he said that the government must take care of the poor alone, because the rich will be able to take care of themselves. How do you see such statements?

SHOKHIN: The government cannot support the entire population. The main thrust of the reform is to let those who can take care of themselves do so and to focus the rather limited financial resources on supporting those who cannot take care of themselves due to objective reasons.

We must see to it that such programs reach the recipient. For that reason I have come up with the idea of a new system for the low-paid. It should be based on certain universal principles, for instance, all families having small children should be entitled to grants. The resources would be distributed among regions and the local authorities will then give the money to the needy ones.

The same principle must be applied to higher school. These days we pay stipends to all. This should be changed. Some should be entitled to stipends, and others given credits. Some students can afford to pay for their education.

A great deal will have to be done in order to change people's mentality. They should no longer think in terms of takers never giving back. Every person must be put in a position where he or she will have to think how best to use one's money and talent. The people must be enterprising in taking care of themselves. Each person must link one's own wealth with investment, pension and insurance funds.

Corr.: The question of material assistance to the low-paid in most cases remains unanswered, because the government has delayed the payment of 100 billion rubles of wages. Has the Cabinet any idea of how to get out of the crisis?

SHOKHIN: For the time being a new, 5-thousand-ruble banknote is going to be issued in circulation. Of course, printing paper money alone will not solve the crisis. Incomes have been growing and production falling. There can be one way out, an economic upturn.

If we try to handle the problem in the "Soviet" way, by putting in additional budget resources and emitting credits, which is being done already, we will be doomed to reproducing the crisis over and over again. There should be no more disinterested grants. Credits must be given on commercial terms. It is very important to combine measures to ease financial policies with a general policy of financial stabilization.

Rutskoy Reviews Rio Forum, Ecological Needs

LD1606082192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0851 GMT 15 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Andrey Kurguzov]

[Excerpt] Rio de Janeiro, 15 Jun—[Passage omitted] The holding of the UN conference on the environment and development in Rio de Janeiro has been most timely, since in 10 or 15 years it would have become pointless. This was said in an ITAR-TASS interview by Russian Federation Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy.

The Rio forum has shown that mankind must move forward, bearing in mind the exhaustive analysis given here of the alarming ecological situaton, A. Rutskoy said. The pollution of the environment obliges us to take urgent measures to control the ecological situation, including criminal prosecutions. However, for this purpose, mechanisms of control and fines for violation of nature protection norms must be devised. It is necessary to revise entirely the legislative basis and Russian law on nature protection, which at present consists of nothing but slogans and exhortations. There is also a need to plan financial back-up to ensure that the declarations we have signed do not remain mere declarations.

Deputy Minister Interviewed on Arms Trade

PM1606092992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 3

[Interview with Vladimir Shibayev, Russian deputy minister of foreign economic relations, by military observer Viktor Litovkin; date and place of interview not given: "Sell Arms!"]

[Text] [Litovkin] In the opinion of the man on the street, the arms trade has always been a dubious business. Hence, in my opinion, the aura of secrecy and hypocritical "shame" which has surrounded it. It was only President Yeltsin who stated publicly for the first time that Russia does not intend to leave this market but, on the contrary, is prepared to increase its share in it. What is this—an enforced step dictated by the crisis in the economy?

[Shibayev] The secrecy is not generated by the dubiousness of activities of this kind. The reason for the secrecy lies elsewhere. It is connected, on the one hand, with the political line which the state pursues. There is no doubt that to a certain degree the arms trade is an effective means of pursuing foreign policy. On the other it is purely commercial secrecy. Many practical conclusions for our competitors depend on the information regarding who we are trading with, how, in what volumes, at what price, along with other factors comprising the essence of a deal.

We do not intend to leave the arms market. On the contrary, we are expanding and deepening our presence there and raising its intellectual standard. Moreover, we are competing on the markets of other countries where we have so far not had a presence. In Southeast Asia and Latin America....

Arms are a commodity, albeit a delicate one. Business, like nature, abhors a vacuum. If we are able to elbow someone aside in the market, we will do so. People do not stand on ceremony with us, after all.

Analyze the situation on the world market and you will see clearly how our competitors are trying to elbow us out of Iran and Libya.... Colossal efforts are now being made to drive us out of India. We do not have the right to allow harm to Russia's long-term economic interests.

[Litovkin] Nonetheless, we can find out more or less reliable figures for the volumes and range in the arms trade of various countries from the publications of Stockholm's International Peace Research Institute. Even that attests that essentially nothing has changed here. Society and its power structures are still deprived of the opportunity of controlling the arms market and that means the market situation and short-term economic interest will continue to prevail there over morality, ethics, and general human values....

[Shibayev] I agree, that is possible in principle, but the new arms trade convention which we are advocating is in fact designed to alter the situation.

Today we are controlled by society in the form of the parliament which it elected. A special deputies' group has been created headed by Vitaliy Vitebskiy. Its chairmen have all the necessary documents and materials about our work and are keeping track of the situation in the market, taking part in all stages of the preparation, reworking, and conclusion of contracts, and checking that they comply with economic, legal, and moral norms....

[Litovkin] Forgive me, but that is a rather narrow group of people. It is not hard to incline it to your side.

[Shibayev] We will not be in any hurry to draw conclusions. In addition to the parliamentary group, a commission for military-technical cooperation has been created, headed by Yegor Gaydar. It will include the six first leaders of the main departments: the Defense Ministry, Foreign Ministry, Industry Ministry, Foreign Economic Affairs Ministry, Foreign Intelligence Services, and the Economics Ministry.

These leaders are designed, on the one hand, to make our work more systematic, and on the other, more open and controllable.

You are right, previously no one knew what you could trade in and what you could not. With whom and how we should trade, with whom we should not trade, and why.... Now everything will be done sufficiently openly. Authorized and prohibited lists are being prepared in accordance with UN requirements.

Moreover, the problem of openness in the arms trade is being placed very high in the world community. Each country will have to declare virtually all its deals. That will help avoid lack of control with weapons ending up on the "black markets," excessive quantities of weapons in particular regions, and the creation of an offensive potential in some countries.

[Litovkin] When will we really be able to familiarize ourselves with these lists?

[Shibayev] By the end of the year, I believe, but already I can name what we are trading in, and with whom. There are 47 countries which are our partners. In terms of level of trade we hold a leading place in the world. It is true that this place fluctuates depending on market conditions but it has not dropped below sixth place and has not risen above fourth place. That is our real place as of today.

What do we trade in? The bulk of our exports, slightly over half their volume, consists of aviation equipment....

[Litovkin] Which specific types of aircraft? The MIG-29? The Su-27?

[Shibayev] The list is a very big one. I fear it will take up a lot of space. It consists of a whole system of weapons. It includes MIG, Su, and Yakovlev aircraft and helicopters.... There is no aviation firm in Russia which does not have a competitive commodity on the world market.

The second group consists of surface to air missile complexes and air defense systems. Then there are infantry weapons: tanks, infantry combat vehicles, artillery systems. They are also enjoying an increased demand. The fourth group consists of naval weapons.

Weapons systems are constantly being improved. Behind the arms race stands the competitive struggle in the market. We are not surrendering our positions here.

[Litovkin] Since the decline of international tension and the easing of the armed struggle in various parts of the world and particularly the victory of the coalition forces in the Persian Gulf, the arms market has been drastically reduced. There has been a particular decline in the demand for our weapons and combat equipment. However, as is well known, our military-industrial complex has accumulated mountains of this commodity. With regard to tanks alone, we have produced more than anyone in the world—77,000. The story is the same for strike aircraft. Where are they to go? After all, in two to three years they will be unsuitable even for melting down.

[Shibayev] There is no doubt that the volumes of the arms trade have been greatly reduced. It is not only the victory in the Persian Gulf that is to "blame" here. Only yesterday there were two opposed sociopolitical systems and that determined everything. The world has now reached a situation in which there are no overt enemies. Competition on the arms market, however strange it may seem, has merely become tougher. The demand for our weapons has by no means declined, but on the contrary increased.

We have systems which even surpass those which gave a successful account of themselves in the Persian Gulf, in particular the "S-300" surface to air missile complex—the Russian "Patriot", about which you have already written. Specialists understand that the decisive role in a war is played not only by weapons but also by the ability to use them, by tactics, operational skill, and other components of victory....

[Litovkin] The "S-300" is none too weighty of an argument for proving that there is an increased demand for our weapons. Can you say that Saudi Arabia, for instance, has bought T-72 tanks from us instead of the U.S. "Abrams" tanks?

[Shibayev] No, I cannot. That information would be leaking a commercial secret, but it is very simple to prove the growth of our trade's efficiency. For that you have to draw attention to the total amount of money it makes.

As I have already said, the volumes of deliveries of our weapons have indeed declined. We no longer trade in them in East Europe—our basic market—although to be honest, the prices at which we trade there were far from being international. In addition, we stopped arms deliveries without payment, to Afghanistan for instance. Incidentally, these pointless, purely political deliveries put us among the world leaders in terms of export volumes. Today we do not sell arms to Iraq, Kuwait, Libya (as of April 1992), Yugoslavia, Ethiopia, and other countries. With the transition as of 1 January 1991 to accounts and payments in freely convertible currency, deliveries have also virtually ceased to some states because of the lack of a government decision on extending credit agreements....

Whereas over the 10 years prior to 1991 we received an income of nearly $2 for each ruble spent (38.3 billion rubles at domestic prices and currency revenue including payment in oil and goods was $74.6 billion), now that profit is far higher. So you can judge for yourself whether or not the demand for our weapons has decreased.

We have also toughened our approach toward the practice of issuing credits. We give them not for 15-20 years, after which time it is not even possible to compare prices, but for five to seven years...., and not at interest rates of 2-3 percent, but at rates accepted on the currency market. The main thing is that we are now seeking the return of debts.

If they cannot manage currency, let them pay in industrial goods, medical supplies, and food, not in the kind which no one needs, but rather, in first-class commodities which we ourselves will select.

I consider it immoral that our people, who have never eaten their fill but who have produced magnificent weapons, should receive in exchange peanuts or commodities which are not in demand anywhere....

[Litovkin] Our arms producers have always been indifferent as to whether or not the weapons were bought. They did not feel it in their income in anyway. Today however, when a largely unconsidered conversion has been brought down upon them, they are—in general—in an oppressed state....

[Shibayev] Yes, that is so, and turning the situation upside down is our most important task.

Unfortunately, conversion is an expensive process and investments are needed for it. Where to take them? After all, the state order has been reduced by a factor of six to eight. I think that the way out, including from the arms trade, is on the foreign market. The way out would come from increasing its efficiency, reducing expenditure, supplying the broadest complex of additional services.... That is, drastically increasing its competitiveness. Many producers understand that, but for some reason some of them have decided to travel the easiest path—to trade in their output themselves. They are not succeeding. Why?

On the world market the situation is such that in each country which exports weapons, there are, as a rule, only five or six serious prestigious firms engaged in this business. Newcomers are not spared or loved. It is true that there is a mass of middlemen but we are not discussing them. Later, however, when everyone is trading everywhere, here is what happens.

At the first stage a certain growth in delivery volumes is even possible, although that is doubtful. Competition between Russian enterprises will inevitably lead to a reduction of prices and thus to a reduction of trade effectiveness and profit mass.

Do not forget that behind the arms trade throughout the world there stands state policy and state economy. Uncontrolled arms deliveries through commercial structures, disregard of state interests, the violation of international commitments, and the eruption on the "black market" will lead to serious government scandals and cause damage not in keeping with the short-term advantage of particular plants and design bureaus.

That is why we are now preaching the following ideology. Above all, with virtually equal rights, we place the interests of the state and of the producer. How is that done?

On the basis of the former main engineering administration we have created the "Oborneksport", and on the basis of the main technical administration we have created the "Spetsvneshtekhnika." We have suggested to the plants and design bureaus and complexes for the production of weapons, that they join with the rights of shareholders and become full owners of these companies.

I believe that this solution will improve the intellectual standard in the arms trade—people from the plants and design bureaus will start to study the market, will understand its laws, and will start to work more effectively on the competitiveness of their output. Excessive bureaucratic strata will disappear.

We have a third company—the former main administration for cooperation and production sharing—which we suggest be turned immediately into a joint-stock company with enterprises of the defense industry, amalgamating the two energies. Scientific and design thinking and technical potential should be fused with the infrastructure which the main administration for cooperation and production sharing possesses in the West, and the producer should be brought as close as possible to the market and he should be interested in the results of his labor.

One simple thing must be understood: Producing arms and trading in arms are absolutely different professions, and we must let each person do what he is best at.

[Litovkin] If I have understood you correctly, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations is against competition. It wants to remain a monopolist on the world arms market.

[Shibayev] Now, we are in favor of competition, but within the country, we are in favor of the growth of producers, not middlemen. We must go out onto the world market with a coordinated policy. You only have to look at the example of the sale of cryogenic rocket engines to India to see what powerful resistance is being offered to us. Why lose where you can win?

We are now cooperating actively with regional centers producing arms, in particular with Yekaterinburg. We have assigned our specialists to them and we are going out together onto the market. The majority of the revenue owing for the sale of combat equipment will go only to the Urals, where it is produced. That includes hard currency, tea, coffee, sugar, and textiles from India along with other products.

That is our program with Moscow and Moscow Oblast. Tula Oblast, which received a license for trading in its own weapons, has also decided to operate through our specialists....

The arms producers have seen that we are really concerned for their interests and not for ministerial bureaucrats, not for partycrats, as was the case before. That trust is helping us work to maximum advantage.

[Litovkin] Apart from the interests of those who produce arms, there are the economic and social interests of those who keep them, that is, the army. You have not actually answered the question of what to do with the mountain of weapons which our military-industrial complex has already accumulated.

[Shibayev] To be honest, I do not know. It would be utopian to imagine that it is possible to sell the tens of thousands of tanks which you mentioned. There are no countries which could buy them or even take them for free. The shipment would cost a pretty penny.

Nonetheless, all the military equipment designed for noncombat purposes (tractors, bulldozers, trucks, and so forth) could be sold inside Russia to the officers and future farmers who have been released into the reserve. Here we cooperate with Army General Grachev, the country's defense minister, and with Aleksandr Temerko, chairman of the committee for social security for servicemen, in addition to creating commercial structures for this purpose.

We will sell some of the combat equipment on the foreign market. Right now we are helping General Deynekin in accordance with the president's authorization for the sale of 1,600 aircraft to construct housing for airmen....

What about the rest? Obviously we must cut it up, pile it up, and turn it into scrap metal. The demand for it within the country and abroad is very high. That is also one way of resolving the army's social problems.

[Litovkin] A last question, Vladimir Dmitriyevich. It is well known that a large quantity of combat equipment and weapons—the strategic reserves of the former Union—has remained on the territory of independent Ukraine. That country has its own powerful military-industrial complex capable of producing the most modern tanks, artillery pieces, and missiles. How will Russia react to the emergence of one more competitor on the world arms market? Will this not lead to the further aggravation of relations between the two countries? What must be done to avoid such a conflict?

[Shibayev] That is a very fine and delicate problem. Much of what I was saying earlier also applies here. There is a powerful military-industrial complex not only in Russia and Ukraine, but also in Byelarus, Kazakhstan, and other states of the former Union. The constant wars in the "trouble spots" are one result of the uncontrolled export and import of weapons.

A treaty on how to produce arms, what kind of arms, and where and how to sell them is extremely necessary for us. Without considering mutual interests, we could—in general—lose our reputation on the world market. It will be a hundred times more difficult to return to it.

I am an optimist. I think that we are now experiencing growing pains. Political ambitions will nonetheless give way to common sense. The main thing is not to make irreparable mistakes.

Efforts to Sell MiG-29 to Germany Detailed

AU1606085992 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 15 Jun 92 pp 170-173

[Unattributed report: "Partner With Good Prospects"]

[Text] Vladimir Kusmin, director general of the Russian Mapo [not further specified] weapons concern, is currently making efforts to overcome a depression that has prevailed for some time. He is happy about developments that irritate his German colleague Edzard Reuter [Mercedes-Benz chairman] extraordinarily: The nosedive of Fighter 90, a project involving enormous sums, from which the Moscow businessman would like to profit.

The numerous branches of the Kusmin concern include the Mikoyan engineering office that produces the legendary MiG aircraft and designs the slim plane with a slightly inclined front and a strongly inclined back—the super fighter aircraft MiG-29.

Since the Soviet state disappeared as a self-service shop for the Soviet Army, 60 of the much-praised aircraft that were originally designed to dupe the NATO class enemy are gathering dust in the Mapo depots. Kusmin now hopes to win the Germans as security partners. They should buy the MiG-29 instead of the controversial Fighter 90.

This would prevent the ruin of the 20,000-men enterprise, which is located directly opposite Moscow's Dynamo stadium. As a matter of fact, state orders, which the MiG producers used to receive regularly in the past, no longer exist. The new armies of the CIS neither possess the required financial means, nor are they politically reliable from Moscow's viewpoint. Afraid that they might be left with the super aircraft, they are trying to sell it abroad.

The plane has a good international reputation. About 500 aircraft have been sold to the former fraternal armies, to India, Syria, and Iran. In the West, however, Kusmin's salesmen have not been very successful so far.

As a matter of fact, the United States is full of praise for the competitor's product traveling at 2,800 km per hour as far as thrust, acceleration, equipment with weapons, and maneuverability in air battles are concerned. Yet prospective customers, such as the Italians and Finns, who intended to place orders involving $2 billion, showed reservation or bought the U.S. F-18 "Hornet."

A historical coincidence has now given rise to hope at the MiG engineering office: Since German unification, 23 of the MiG-29 supplied to the GDR People's Army have remained in the formerly hostile country, and are being examined and assessed most carefully by NATO engineers.

According to Director General Kusmin, the MiG-29 outperformed all other Western rivals during a simulated air battle. "The other planes only misfired and remained far behind our fighter." "Our aircraft is even better than the U.S. F-16 and F-18," he added. The Russian businessman is pleased that even the German Audit Office described his fighters as "reliable and easy to maintain."

"The MiG-29 is the best aircraft of the German Air Force," the Moscow daily IZVESTIYA rejoiced. Kusmin's agile commercial director Aleksander Besrukov, 28, views the Germans as "our partner with the best prospects."

Patriotic doubtfulness and old hostilities should not impede the weapons deal: "After all, Yuriy Moeller, the first head of the works first founded in 1893 as Ducks Stock Corporation, was a German," members of the company's museum showing its achievements pointed out.

However, there are hardly any signs of this early capitalist phase in the agitation temple crammed with red flags, Stalin books, and portraits of exemplary workers. Secret cooperation with the later enemy is not openly mentioned either. Thus, Trotsky's Red Army and Seeckt's Reichswehr violated the Versailles Treaty since 1922 and founded a fighter air wing. Junkers even established an aircraft factory.

Prewar period, postwar period—Director Vladimir Kusmin does not care. He has to rescue the MiG-29 manufacturing company. At the international aviation show that starts in Schoenefeld on Monday [15 June], he wants to try and win orders from the Germans: "They do not even know the MiG manufacturer," he stressed.

The MiG engineers want to break the resistance of the German weapons lobby with astonishing skill. At the air base in Brandenburg, they are currently installing new engines in former aircraft of the National People's Army. One of the fighter aircraft was adapted to NATO's navigation system.

In their efforts to convert their cocooned aircraft into money—they are offering them at dumping prices, at $25-30 million per aircraft, which is less than half the price of a Fighter 90—the Moscow businessmen turned out to be involved in shady deals. In the spring, U.S. and Polish agents presented Philippine purchase certificates for two MiG-29 aircraft. When the contract was concluded on German soil, it turned out that the aircraft were destined for Iraq. The deal did not come about, and the two men were arrested by the FBI.

"The Americans had already observed the weapons smugglers for seven months, but failed to warn us," Kusmin complained. "We are still feeling the political consequences to this day."

Pavel Yelkin, head of the department for strategic weapons export in the Russian Foreign Trade Ministry, cites an even more important handicap: The Russian Government demands a commission from the CIS weapons manufacturers, and 40 percent of the profit must be converted into worthless rubles.

For this reason, Yelkin is skeptical, and he considers the ambitious plans of the MiG producers mere fantasies: "At most, the Germans take the casing of the MiG-29 and install their own electronic system."

MiG Company To Participate in Berlin Exhibition

OW1406153392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1352 GMT 14 Jun 92

[From the 15 June "Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian company MiG will exhibit MiG-29 and MiG-31 fighters and plans for future fighter-plane models at the international aerospace exhibit which is taking place in Berlin from June 15 through the 20th.

According to Anatoliy Belosvet, head designer at the Mikoyan United Design Bureau (UDB), it is expected that the exhibit in Berlin will have a significant influence on the German government and the Bundeswehr's final decision between the MiG-29 and the EFA-90 program (the new European fighter).

During the exhibit the MiG company is planning to negotiate with the British company British Aerospace on the joint development of a new generation of subsonic business planes and training planes. It is possible that MiG will discuss its participation in developing future European fighter planes with British Aerospace and several German companies.

Negotiations with the American company Pratt & Whitney and Snecma (France) are also planned to discuss the question of equipping the export model of the future transport plane MiG-110 and the next generation of military training planes with motors from these companies. Work with the Dassault company (France) will most likely continue on the joint development of Falcon planes.

Mr. Belosvet stated that a packet of documents is ready concerning the creation of the MiG corporation, which will include the UDB and two plane factories in Moscow and Nizhniy Novgorod. Similar corporations have already been created out of the Yakovlev and Tupolev organizations in Russia.

Talks Discuss Swedish Plane Shot Down in 1952

PM1506083192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Jun 92 p 3

[Russian Federation Ministry Press Center report: "Working Meeting Held"]

[Text] By mutual agreement between the Russian Federation and Swedish governments, a further working meeting was held at the Russian Federation Defense Ministry on 8-11 June with relatives of the crew of a Swedish DC-3 military aircraft that was shot down on 13 June 1952 by a Soviet MiG-15 over the open sea 100-110 km northwest of the city of Ventspils.

During the meeting, which was held in a spirit of mutual understanding, trust, and goodwill, additional archive material was presented and handed over to the Swedish delegation and there was a discussion of a wide range of issues relating to the circumstances of the affair.

The results of the joint work made it possible to resolve a number of serious questions and bring the sides' views on the fate of the eight members of the Swedish military aircraft crew closer together. Moreover, the sides discussed and outlined the next steps in the matter of settling the incident once and for all.

The Swedish delegation was received by Colonel General Georgiy Kondratyev, Russian Federation deputy defense minister, who, on behalf of the Russian Government and Defense Ministry, expressed regret to the relatives of the DC-3 aircraft crew in connection with the occurrence.

Bilateral Planning Talks With Japan Open

OW1506125392 Tokyo KYODO in English
1241 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow, June 15 KYODO—Japanese and Russian officials in charge of diplomatic and defense policies on Monday [15 June] started their first-ever bilateral policy planning meeting at the Russian Foreign Ministry in Moscow, Japanese officials said.

The two-day meeting, to discuss the military situation in the Far East Asian region, was the first between the two nations attended by uniformed military officers.

The two nations agreed to hold the meeting when Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe met his counterpart Andrey Kozyrev in Moscow last month.

Katsunari Suzuki, the Foreign Ministry's director general of the Information, Analysis, Research, and Planning Bureau, is heading the Japanese delegation. Other members include Masahiro Akiyama, a senior Defense Agency official, and a general at the Self-Defense Forces' Joint Staff Council.

Officials of the Russian Foreign Ministry, Defense Ministry and General Staff Office are attending the meeting.

Japan hopes to promote mutual trust and to smooth negotiations over four disputed islands during the talks to discuss security conditions following the end of the Cold War.

Japanese Ambassador Comments on Russian Reform

OW1506153892 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1434 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Report by Igor Porshnev and others from Diplomatic Panorama; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia is facing two problems now. Ambassador of Japan to Russia Sumio Edamura believes that on the one hand it must change the state system, and on the othor to restore its industry.

He told DP [Diplomatic Panorama] that "all of the current difficulties result from the imperfect set-up which Russia had until recently". "The old state system found itself in a deadlock, which finally resulted in economic recession", S. Edamura emphasized.

He said that Russia has all it needs for development: a highly intellectual population, vast territory and rich natural resources.

But the ambassador agrees that Russia will need foreign help, particularly during the transition period. In his opinion, in the current conditions, "emergency" humanitarian aid, including food-stuffs and medicines, is what Russia needs most of all now. S. Edamura also said that Russia is in need of assistance in stabilizing the Russian ruble and in ensuring the safety of nuclear power plants.

As to the state reform, S. Edamura believes that technological help should be given priority. It is to include assistance in organizing the Knancial system, in improving methods of economic management, promoting small businesses, and in conducting conversion.

Chinese Ambassador Urges Cooperation in Far East

LD1306091692 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English
1746 GMT 12 Jun 92

[From the "External Economic Contacts" section]

[Text] Khabarovsk—Van Tzintsin, extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of the People's Republic of China in the Russian Federation: China and Russia are the largest neighbor states in the Far East, and the whole region's policy is determined by their relations.

On June 11, Van Tzintsin, extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador, who is on an official visit in Khabarovsk, met with a deputy head of the territorial administration Valeriy Tikhonov and proposed that Khabarovsk exchange market situation information with Chinese border towns. He also said that a joint data bank might be set up with information about economic and socio-political structures and trends, processes and developments taking place in the Russian Far East and northern China. Van tzintsin further said that the four free enterprise zones established in northern China (Heihe and Suifenhe of Heiluntziang Province, Hunchun in Tzilin Province and Mancholi in inner Mongolia Autonomous District) have good prospects as regards taxation and customs policies, which, according to the ambassador, must attract large investments to northern China, which the Russian Far East may use as an example in establishing its own free economic zones.

Enterprise Soliciting Goods From PRC Companies

OW1506094292 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin
0400 GMT 15 June 92

[From the "Industrialists' Club" program]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Attention, Chinese enterprises engaged in production and commercial companies: An enterprise in the city of Icha wants to buy from China, a batch of low-priced civilian products that can be freely traded in foreign currency. We want to purchase fashionable cottonwear and knitwear, cloth shoes for summer use, sportswear, daily-use audio equipment, audiotapes and videotapes, and other products worth $10,000. Agreements on long-term cooperation will be signed with partners offering (?the most favorable) terms. This is to say that two to six shipments of commodities, each valued at $10,000, will be purchased annually.

Please forward information to our editorial department at the radio station's Asian service at 25 (Pyatnitskaya) Boulevard, Moscow. Our telex and fax numbers are 095-230-2828 and 211-182 or 211-136, respectively. [passage omitted]

Federation Affairs

Gaydar Post as Government Chairman 'Permanent'

LD1506154592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1523 GMT 15 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow June 15 TASS—The decision of the Russian president to entrust the responsibilities of prime minister to Yegor Gaydar is not a temporary one, according to a governmental spokesman.

The post of the chairman of the government is given to Gaydar "as a permanent one", Gennadiy Shipitko told TASS on Monday [15 June].

President Boris Yeltsin has been heading the government for the last seven months.

Shipitko said Yeltsin's decision signifies his "trust to the course of reforms carried out by the team of Gaydar and his adherence to the chosen way".

However, the spokesman did not clear up why Gaydar was not appointed prime minister, but was "entrusted with responsibilities" of head of government and whether the decision is connected with Yeltsin's official visit to the United States during which issues of financial and economic help to Russia will most evidently be in the focus of discussions.

Shipitko only said that both in the United States and in West European countries, the leaders of which Yeltsin plans to meet in July at a G-7 summit in Munich, most economists and financiers link the success of reforms in Russia to the name of Yegor Gaydar.

Filatov Welcomes Gaydar Appointment

OW1606044392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1211 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Gaydar's appointment as acting premier confirms that his team will carry on, First Vice-Chairman of the Russian Parliament Sergey Filatov told IF [INTERFAX] in an exclusive interview. He said that he had congratulated Gaydar on his new appointment which he described as "absolutely normal". Filatov expressed confidence that the parliament's chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov will also welcome such an appointment. He said that the recent appointments in the government gave rise to fears in Russia and in the West least [as received] the course of economic reforms might be changed. Such fears are ungrounded, said Filatov. Before his departure to the U.S., President Yeltsin demonstrated that Gaydar remains the key figure in the government. Filatov also expressed confidence that the parliament will endorse this appointment.

New Ministry of Labor Formed; Minister Named

LD1506150792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1357 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow, 15 June. (ITAR-TASS)—By decree of the president of the Russian Federation, in connection with the formation of the Federal Service of Employment of Russia and Federal Migration Service of Russia, the Ministry of Labor and Employment of the Population of the Russian Federation has been transformed into the Ministry of Labor of the Russian Federation.

Gennadiy Georgiyevich Melikyan has been appointed minister of labor of the Russian Federation.

Appointments Noted

LD1506130992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1129 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow June 15 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree on Monday [15 June] turning the Committee on Migration of the Population into the Russian Federal Migration Service. Tatyana Regent was appointed its head.

The decree also transforms the Committee on Employment of the Population into the Russian Federal Employment Service. Fedor Prokopov was appointed its head.

Decree Aids Secure Government Communications

PM1506132392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Jun 92 First Edition p 4

[Report by Aleksandr Golubev under the rubric "Government Communications": "Guardians of Secret Information"]

[Text] Today information is literally worth its weight in gold. So there has been very high interest of late in the problems of protecting it. No wonder commercial organizations handling the cryptographic protection of information are springing up all over the place.

In order to create an orderly state of affairs, the Russian president recently signed a decree which, together with other functions, gives the Federal Government Communications and Information Agency under the president responsibility for coordinating work in the sphere of cryptographic protection of information.

The decree by the head of state gives the agency the exclusive right to authorize the operation of cryptographic facilities and secret communications complexes and systems and to monitor the correct use of them. Moreover, the agency alone can authorize exports and imports of cryptographic facilities.

The decree approves the provisional statute on the Federal Government Communications and Information Agency. It says, in part, that the agency is responsible for providing the president, organs of state power and government, and nonstate, including commercial, structures with special types of communications and information. The agency ensures secure government and other types of special communications for Russian organs of state power and administration, the armed forces, top CIS organs (at their request), and also state structures' administrative organs. It will check whether cryptographic facilities under development and in production meet communications security demands and will monitor their use in Russian state organs, armed forces, institutions, and at enterprises. Accordingly, the agency's instructions on organizing and safeguarding secure communications and information for the Russian president, Government, and Supreme Soviet and secure cryptographic and secret communications in the armed forces, state institutions, and organizations and at enterprises are binding on all state organizations, enterprises, and institutions.

The agency is responsible for elaborating the basic demands relating to secure cryptographic communications and will determine the general procedure for developing, producing, and operating cryptographic equipment and will also check its cryptographic qualities. It will authorize enterprises, organizations, and institutions, irrespective of the form of ownership, to obtain licenses entitling them to develop, produce, repair, and sell cryptographic equipment and also to export and import cryptographic equipment and cryptographic and noncryptographic facilities for the protection of technical devices processing and transmitting information. Enterprises and firms have to obtain certificates from the agency for the cryptographic devices they make.

Decree Issued To Streamline Export Duties

LD1506130392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1139 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow June 15 TASS—A decree by Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed by him before departure to the United States is meant to streamline exporters' settlements with the Russian state budget. The document "on partially changing the procedure for the mandatory sale of part of the hard currency revenue and levying export duties" orders to charge export duties in roubles. Its rate in Ecu (European Currency Unit) is subject to re-calculation in accordance with the rouble rate quoted by the Russian Central Bank at the moment of the duty payment.

Export duties are levied on enterprises shipping commodities out of Russia irrespective of the forms of ownership and the place of registration, including firms and companies with foreign capital contribution.

The decree preserves the procedure for increasing the export duty rate by 30 percent in exporting commodities under barter-deals. This rate will increase by another 20 percent since next year.

The Russian president asked the government to define within 45 days a special procedure for levying export duties during the export of articles and materials for building complete installations abroad. The government was also charged with elaborating a provision on duty payment under international agreements on co-production, including raw material processing.

All Enterprises Liable

LD1506123692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1147 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow June 15 TASS—Export duties will be now paid in roubles, according to a decree of the Russian president signed on the eve of his visit to the United States. The duties estimated in Ecu at present will be exchanged into roubles according to the exchange rate quoted by the Central Bank of Russia.

All enterprises exporting goods from Russia, regardless of their form of property, and including ventures with foreign investments are liable to export duties. The duties increase by 30 per cent in case of barter trade, and the figure will grow by another 20 per cent beginning next year.

The president authorised the government to determine in a one and a half month period the rules of levying duties on exports of products and materials supplied for the complete construction of objects abroad and on duties paid according to agreements on international labour cooperation, including processing of raw materials.

Decree To Motivate Russian Industry

LD1606075192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1125 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow, 15 Jun (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Federation is to introduce temporary customs duty rates from 1 July this year under a decree of the Russian President dated 14 June. The aim is to increase revenues from foreign trade and to motivate Russian producers of manufactured goods.

The decree states that base customs duty rates will apply to goods originating from countries enjoying most-favored nation trading status with Russia. These rates will be defined as a percentage of the customs value of the goods, and be payable in either rubles or foreign currency at the importer's discretion. For example, 20 percent of the customs value will be payable when importing beer and sparkling wines, and 15 percent for video equipment and televisions, and for vehicles intended for corporate bodies.

For private individuals, the duty on cars will be 0.1 European currency units per cubic centimeter of engine capacity. Duties on goods being imported from countries not enjoying most-favored nation terms will be doubled.

The decree also allows private individuals to import into Russia in their accompanying baggage duty-free goods worth in total up to $10,000. Goods being imported for personal use in quantities to be determined by the Russian Customs Committee will also be duty-free. This last clause, however, does not apply to transportation facilities.

Decrees on Cash Circulation, Bankruptcy Viewed

LD1506174492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 15 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Russian president has signed two more decrees.

A decree has been adopted on additional measures to limit the circulation of ready cash. It says that from now until the normalization of cash circulation and the elimination of the cash shortage, all enterprises are obliged to deposit their money only in banking institutions. They are allowed to keep ready cash only within the limits set by the same banks, i.e., they will not be able to make payments with ready cash.

The second decree, which has long been expected, is about the bankruptcy of state enterprises, including those in which the share of state property is 50 percent or more, and which fail to fulfill their obligations to creditors and the budget. Such enterprises, in accordance with this decree, will be declared insolvent, i.e., bankrupt, and will be auctioned off. The entrepreneur who pledges the greatest amount of money as a financial guarantee will win the contest to own the enterprise. All rights will pass to him. However, he cannot dismiss more than 30 percent of the workforce.

Yeltsin Signs Decree on Cossacks Rehabilitation

OW1606044592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1211 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [15 June], President Yeltsin signed the decree on measures to implement the law on the rehabilitation of the repressed nations in relation to Cossacks. The document says that direct descendants of Cossacks or people who have joined the Cossack community shall be given the right to form up district, military and other traditional Cossack associations. They shall also have the right to choose forms of self-government on the basis of the citizens' free will (local referendum).

According to the current land legislation the Cossack villages shall be granted, for free, plots of land for collective farming, on the basis of traditional forms of community land-cultivation.

The Presidential decree says, at the same time, that return to any "social privileges or forced imposition of the Cossack way of life on anyone is inadmissible".

The Russian government and local authorities, with Cossack representatives participating, have been recommended to draft and adopt, before January 1, 1993, a comprehensive programme for gradual economic and cultural revival of the Cossacks.

The Russian Defence Ministry has been instructed to draft proposals on Cossacks' service in the armed forces and on the protection of state borders and the maintenance of public peace". [quotation marks as received] The Russian Foreign Ministry will draft proposals on settling the Cossack matters in relations between Russia and other CIS states.

Government Prepares To Mint Gold Coins

OW1506121492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1114 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's government "has already made a decision" to initiate minting gold coins with the values 25,000 and 50,000 rubles, says Sergey Shinkevich, head of Kemerovo regional financial department, in a conversation with an INTERFAX correspondent. According to Mr. Shinkevich, he became privy to this information by head of Kemerovo administration Aman Tuleyev who, in his turn, had received it from the Russian parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov.

For the first time, the government's preparedness to issue gold coins into circulation was expressed by First

Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar two weeks ago. He revealed that the government intended to resort to gold coins to repay for its debts in cash in a number of regions. Subsequently, President Boris Yeltsin remarked that the gold coins would have the value of 500 rubles.

Russia's Central Bank representatives, commenting on the government decision on INTERFAX's request, said that they view this measure as "a political solution". In their opinion, it will not resolve the issue of cash deficit, but it may considerably alleviate social tension in various parts of Russia.

Government To Submit Expanded Reforms Program

LD1506202592 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1500 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] The deepening and widening of the reform is proposed in a draft of a new government program which will be examined at a session of the cabinet on 18 June.

This was stated to an ITAR-TASS correspondent by Andrey Illarionov, deputy director of the working center for economic reform attached to the government.

There is no deviation from the planned course, he said. The program is calculated in stages. The document serves to explain the actions of the government and to enable the government to check the speed at which the reforms are being implemented. The appearance of the draft program can be considered an answer to criticism of the government for the absence of a precise outline for the transformation of the Russian economy.

Economist Outlines Plan

LD1506101292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0850 GMT 15 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Petr Tsyrendorzhiyev]

[Text] Moscow June 15 TASS—The draft of a new government programme to be examined at a meeting of the Russian Government on June 18 calls for deepening and expanding economic reform, Andrey Illarionov, deputy head of the governmental Centre for Economic Reform, told ITAR-TASS.

There is no backpedalling from the course of reforming the Russian economy, he said. Conversely, the programme envisages a further stage-by-stage liberalisation of the economy and the stabilisation of the financial-monetary system. For instance, the criterion of attaining the goal of the first of the three stages of reform is the reduction in the share of the regulated prices down to three percent of the volume of the gross national product [GNP]. This goal also includes decreasing state purchases to 20 percent of the GNP volume and bringing the inflation rate down to three to five percent a month.

Making the rouble a convertible currency is also planned. Illarionov believes Russia may successfully accomplish this task independently: At the expense of the growing volume of exports and hard currency earnings. For instance, the average monthly volume of exports runs at some three billion U.S. dollars and the stabilisation fund, into which six billion dollars from International Monetary Fund credits are to be channelled, will rather play the role of a psychological factor.

The draft programme does not stipulate measures to back up state-run enterprises. "It will be better for the economy if loss-making enterprises go bankrupt," Illarionov stressed. "Not to go bust, they should begin privatisation as soon as possible. Only in this case legal snags to their financial backing will be cleared."

The programme is divided into stages which do not have time-frames and are rather of the conceptual nature. The document is not legal and serves to explain the Russian Government's actions. It will likewise help the republic's leaders check the pace of economic reform. The appearance of the draft programme can be regarded as a response to the criticism of the government that it does not have a clear concept of transforming the Russian economy.

Stages of Program Detailed

OW1606044492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1211 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to IF [INTERFAX] sources, shortly, the Russian government will submit to parliament a medium-term programme of reforms drafted jointly with experts of the Research Institute of the Russian Union of Manufacturers and Entrepreneurs.

The first stage of the programme is described as a period of critical development. By the end of this period, the monthly rate of inflation will not exceed 3.5 per cent and the state budget deficit will not stand at more than 3 per cent. Economic recession is expected to stop and the volume of regulated prices is expected to go down to 2-3 per cent of the gross national product.

The second stage—the restoration of the economy— is expected to reduce the share of the public sector to 40 per cent in industry and 10 per cent in trade, and to bring the gross national product down to the pre-crisis mark.

The third stage, a stage of economic progress, will witness the stabilization of the rates of economic growth (at least 3-4 per cent annually) and of the positive balance of payments; that rate of accumulation will stand at no leas than 15 per cent of the gross national product. Observers report that many of the experts' recommendations were accepted during the preliminary discussion of the document, which points to the beginning of a constructive dialogue between the government and Russia's biggest association of manufacturers.

Nechayev Examines Grain Imports, Price Rises

LD1406192992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0030 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Interview with Russian Economics Minister Andrey Alekseyevich Nechayev by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] We have received many telephone calls about the extremely difficult situation caused by price increases on milk and bread. People are claiming that milk is being poured into ditches and that meat is being thrown away.

We put this question to Russian Economics Minister Andrey Alekseyevich Nechayev.

[Nechayev] I do not want to dramatize the situation by suggesting that milk is being poured away and meat thrown out all over the place. However, it is true that the costs of many agricultural enterprises and, correspondingly of processing enterprises, have risen so much that the public is unable to purchase produce at these prices. These increased costs, coupled with the low, extremely low, overall efficiency of our state agro-industrial sector, have now prompted the decision to increase sales of imported grain.

Unfortunately the main agricultural producer in our country is not agriculture but the oil industry. We tend to buy grain in exchange for oil or purchase it using credits. The state was no longer able to go on selling it for 5 rubles [unit unspecified].

We are importing 25 million tonnes of grain this year, and we have insufficient funds to maintain preferential prices for this. Therefore, we have increased local budget the funds somewhat, so that they can subsidize the public locally, not the shops, but the most vulnerable groups of the population. In particular, this has already been done in Moscow, as you know. In addition, because of the difficulties facing animal husbandry, the government has decided to subsidize the production of meat.

However, I do not think we will find any universal solution right now for all regions, for all oblasts. The situation varies. Where oblasts are self-sufficient, the situation is better than in major cities, for example, which are virtually entirely dependent on imports. These decisions will be made on the spot, as applicable to the specific situation.

All the same, I think these are all half-measures to some extent, plugging the gaps. This has to be said frankly. Of course, we cannot find a strategic solution unless there is healthy development of private farming, which we are currently addressing. Our first experience shows that private farming is considerably more efficient than state or collective farm production, on average. I think that, strategically, we can seek the solution along that path.

Ulyukayev Discusses Future of Ruble Zone

LD1406163792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Report by correspondent Vyacheslav Osipov, including recorded remarks by Government Economic Adviser Aleksey Ulyukayev; opening paragraph read by announcer]

[Excerpts] A routine meeting of the Russian Government was largely devoted to the participation of all the country's citizens in the privatization process. The meeting took place on Thursday [11 June] under the chairmanship of First Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar. Our correspondent Vyacheslav Osipov gives details in his report.

[Osipov] Government Economic Adviser Aleksey Ulyukayev said that the first batch of privatization checks to be issued will have a value of 150 million rubles [R]. They can be used in any region of the republic, in any sector without any restrictions. [passage omitted]

At today's government meeting, it was noted that any further increase in the balance of payments surplus would be dangerous for Russia's economy and finances. At the start of the year, the surplus was R7 billion; in March R33 billion; in April R70 billion; it now exceeds R100 billion. What does this mean?

The former Soviet republics are buying goods from Russia in return for noncash payments. Russia's neighbors are busy creating their own national currencies, and the number of CIS states wishing to remain in the united ruble zone is decreasing. In this connection the government has made the following decision:

[Ulyukayev] To offer our partners two types of agreement. The first would be an agreement on introducing their own national currencies. Let me repeat once again that we are not at all opposed to this; on the contrary, it is in our interest that the independent states should have their own national currencies. The second option would be to sign quite strict agreements on including any particular independent state in the ruble zone and for it to use the Russian ruble as the legal means of payment. An essential condition for this will be to conduct a united credit and monetary policy.

[Osipov] The position is complicated. I would even describe it as delicate, since the ruble zone is preferred by the International Monetary Fund which, in its turn, is at present holding up the granting of the promised credit. The situation may become a lot clearer on 26 June at the conference of the heads of the Commonwealth states. But how much clearer? It is difficult to say now since some adhere to the position of firmly introducing their own national currency—Estonia, for example. Others—Russia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan—are in favor of a ruble zone. A third group would like to have both, and a fourth group has not yet adopted a clear stance.

Finally, on the financing of the press. It has been decided to set up a commission which will engage in a selection of the press. One opinion is that they should all be given a little each.

[Ulyukayev] There may be the political option of supporting the press according to its reliability, that is—to give to those who praise the government, and to tell those who criticize the government to forget it. That is one option. [laughs] I think that option will not be selected, of course, but the commission will be guided primarily by the significance of a particular publication from the point of view of its print run, its mass appeal.

[Osipov] That was the news from government sources.

Predicts High Fuel Prices

LD1406161292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1432 GMT 11 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sergey Podyapolskiy and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Jun—There were no disagreements between the "new" and the "old" deputy chairmen of the Russian Government at today's session. This was stated at a briefing by Aleksey Ulyukayev, the economic adviser to the Russian Federation Government. Answering journalists' questions, he reported that the discussion of the point on the agenda regarding the introduction of the system of personalized privatization checks exposed a "rare unanimity."

In this connection, Aleksey Ulyukayev expressed disagreement with the concerns being voiced by some of the media about the possibility that the entry of new people into the government may have a negative effect on the implementation of the economic reform. "The new deputy chairmen are far from being antimarket minded, and there is no danger here," he stressed.

The economic adviser to the government reported that another price rise for fuels will take place in Russia before this fall. According to him, a final decision on freeing oil prices has not yet been made, and they can be regulated for some time yet. At the same time, a price rise is needed for the normal functioning of the fuel and power complex, and the government will be implementing it.

Foreign Economic Activity Rules To Be Changed

PM1606113992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Irina Demchenko: "New Rules for Foreign Economic Activity in Russia"]

[Text] At a symposium organized by the newspaper ASAHI and Harvard University, Russian Foreign Economic Relations Minister Petr Aven and First Deputy Minister of Finances Andrey Vavilov have described the changes which will take place in the very near future in regulating foreign economic activity.

The members of the government noted that for the first time in many years Russia has a negative balance of payments for foreign trade operations: Despite the fact that centralized imports are concentrated mainly on vitally necessary commodities the volume of these imports is in excess of the revenue from export. It is true, P. Aven announced, that exports—also for the first time in a long while—have started to increase somewhat. The discrepancy in import and export operations is being covered with foreign credits guaranteed either by foreign governments or by international financial organizations. A. Vavilov noted that these are mainly credited which were granted to the leadership of the former USSR and their use increases Russia's foreign debts.

P. Aven said that after 1 July the Russian Government intends to narrow considerably the sphere of export goods for which it is necessary to receive quotas and licenses. Quotas will be repealed for the export of rolled ferrous metals, chemical output (except mineral fertilizers), and paper. In practice, he said, by the end of the year quotas will be retained mainly for oil and its products and for gas. It is planned to introduce a value-added tax on imported goods.

P. Aven voiced great concern over the numerous instance of trade in Russian resources on world markets at prices considerably below average. He said, for instance, that timber sold out of Russia bypassing the "Eksportles" association is sold at half the price of its real worth while metal sold through nontraditional middlemen is 10 percent cheaper. Describing this as looting Russia, P. Aven gave notice that a draft president's decree on putting the export of resources in order has been prepared. After this document has been signed the right to engage in foreign trade activity in the field of metal and timber exports will be granted only to those enterprises which receive a state license.

As of 1 July, the government members stated, a single exchange rate for the ruble against the dollar is being introduced. For at least a while it will not be a fixed rate but the market rate, that is it will fluctuate. Nonetheless all operations will be conducted at this rate and, A. Vavilov noted, if it is set at the present level (112 rubles a dollar) then without state subsidies a loaf of bread could cost 50-60 rubles. He gave an assurance that "we cannot do that" and "the ruble's exchange rate against the dollar will even out as domestic and world prices even out." In P. Aven's opinion, the dollar's exchange rate in Russia will continue to fall if the government has sufficient firmness to stick to its style of reforms.

The foreign economic relations minister noted that the government intends to oblige enterprises to sell half of their currency profit on the domestic market "but not to the state or the Central Bank but simply on the market" (he obviously had in mind the currency exchange). He gave as the reason for this, in particular, the need to teach enterprises the rules of commodity trade.

The government members gave an assurance that all necessary documents have already been prepared and the changes will take place in the very near future.

Yablokov Criticizes Government Energy Policy

LD1506175292 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0700 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] An adviser to the Russian president, Aleksey Yablokov, has criticized a new concept of energy policy worked out by the Russian cabinet and proposed an alternative draft. The document points out that Russia does not lag behind other countries in the per capita production of electric power and shortages in this sphere owe mostly to irrational usage. In this connection the draft suggests concentrating efforts on the introduction of new energy saving technologies and equipment. The authors of the draft believe in the necessity to give up building large power stations and develop medium- and small-scale ones.

Budget Deficit Estimates at 300 Billion Rubles

OW1506202592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1952 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The government of Russia has sent a draft budget to parliament containing the basic figures of this year's budget and predicting a further fall in oil production.

Government revenue in 1992 is expected to total 5,871.8 bln. rbls. [billion rubles], spending—6,180 bln. rbls, and budget deficit—308.3 bln. rbls. (2.3% of the GNP).

The VAT [value added tax] and excise duties (2,023.1 bln. rbls.), social insurance fund and pension fund (1,385 bln. rbls.) and the tax on the incomes of industries and organizations (972.1 bln. rbls.) will be the main sources of income of the Russian government.

The nominal incomes of Russia's population will be up from 6.5 trillion rubles (an 850% increase against 1991), however, the real income will be down 30%.

In the second half of 1992 the government is going to raise the tax on the land and the use of water, and to impose a number of excise duties on a number of imported goods, to establish a special duty for the right of trade and to index the rates of mandatory payments to the budget.

The government's estimates extending until the end of 1992 says:

—the production of oil and gas condensate will total 397 mn. tons [as received] (86% of the 1991 level);

—of natural gas—646 bln. c.m. (the level of 1991);

—of coal—354 mln. tons (the level of 1991);

—the production of iron railroad stock—50 mln. tons (01% of the 1991 level), including 8.4 mln. tons of steel pipes (80% of the 1991 level);

The message says this year's grain crop will be at the annual average level of 1986-1990.

For details see INTERFAX Financial Report, N 24.

Vneshtorgbank's Profits Top 2 Billion Rubles

OW1406154792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1353 GMT 14 Jun 92

[From the 15 June "Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Federation's Vneshtorgbank [VTB], (the VTB is a commercial bank created in November 1990), had profits for the first five months of 1992 of 2.147 bn [billion] rubles according to the VTB's managing chairman Valeriy Telegin.

Commenting on the results of the first annual shareholders' meeting on Thursday [11 June], Telegin emphasized that "shareholders approved the bank's policies and voluntarily refused dividends," which will instead be used to develop the bank.

The VTB's largest shareholder is the Central Bank of Russia (51%).

The VTB's profits at the beginning of 1992 were 119.7 mn [million] rubles while the bank's assets totalled over 5.5 bn rubles.

Vneshtorgbank has thirteen affiliate banks in various regions of Russia; the VTB's share in these banks fluctuates between 35% and 51%.

(Vneshtorgbank Russia's balance and more detailed information on the VTB will be published in the INTERFAX/Financial Report N 24).

Union Demands Liberalized Oil Prices

OW1506212392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1954 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A conciliatory commission between the "Yuganskneftegaz" industrial association and the government will meet in Moscow on June 17. The basic demands of the association include free oil prices coupled with the establishment of the maximum level of profitability of oil extracting facilities and industries manufacturing oil equipment.

The trade union says that Russia's oil output this year will be 100 million tons [as received] below the potential.

Trade union leaders say that in January through May Russia extracted 40 mln. tons less than it was planned at the beginning of the year.

Experts believe that the falling production is in the first place a result of unjustifiably low prices of oil. Attempts by the government to make the industry self-financing have put it on the brink of collapse. Experts believe that the price of crude must be raised to 4,230 rbls. [rubles] a ton. Only in that case extraction will be profitable. Otherwise oil workers will have to go on curtailing extraction rates.

Already now more than a quarter of "Yuganskneftegaz" association's 10.5 thousand wells are at a stand-still. The government has failed to take effective measures to eliminate distortions in the system of free pricing. Fuels have been left beyond the bounds of that system. What makes the situation still worse, trade unionists say, is that apart from the 250 mln. rbls. of costs "Yuganskneftegaz" is unable to receive more than 4 bln. rbls. of debts for oil already supplied to the customers.

The trade union understands the government's fear of the effects the liberalization of fuel prices will cause, however, they believe that the expected upsurge in prices is largely over-estimated. Sooner or later, the government will have to take that step. If it does so this summer, the industry will be saved from collapse, otherwise Russia will be faced with a disastrous shortage of oil and petroleum products already in the winter.

Rutskoy Adviser on Land Reform Package

OW1506135792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1314 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Interview with Igor Gavrilov, adviser to Vice President Rutskoy, by Marina Chernukha; place and date not given; from the 12 June edition of "Nation & Society"; following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In late May, Russia's Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy completed his trips to Rostov and Kursk regions where he was addressing the opportunities for setting up efficient agricultural corporations there. Interfax correspondent Marina Chernukha began her interview with the vice president's adviser Igor Gavrilov from asking him to comment on the results of these trips.

Gavrilov: Our primary objective was to evaluate the progress of the agricultural and land reform. The way I see it, Rostov and Kursk regions, as well as Stavropol and Krasnodar territories, are relying on a well-established structure of agricultural production. Therefore, the collective-share form of ownership is likely to dominate there for a comparatively long time. The existing state and collective farms will eventually be subject to transformations, yet I doubt it that their transformations will take place in the near future, given historically established traditions and many other factors. Knowledgeably, the farms there are largely depend on the subsidies which they receive from their parent collective and state farms. Among other things, they receive various materials and equipment, fuel and lubricants, seeds, and so on. Unfortunately, the state is not conducting any purposeful work aimed at optimizing the development of the farms' production capabilities. I can point to certain highly lucrative areas of production which are practically neglected. In Rostov region, it is sheep breeding which could become a "gold mine" if anyone ever took it up seriously. In addition, they can develop product processing complexes with equal success. This problem stands out, and Aleksandr Rutskoy paid due attention to it. What we need most of all is to insure adequate cooperation between these and other regions of Russian Federation, considering that Rostov region, however well developed it is, does not possess all the necessary food processing resources.

In terms of agricultural policy, we ought to attach primary attention to introducing most up-to-date production technologies and efficient know-how. Incidentally, we should not necessarily utilize the technologies proposed, say, by Israel, even though it uses many advanced technologies. Remarkably, some of our own technologies are also very promising.

Corr.: Does the Memorandum signed in Rostov provide for such freedom of maneuver on the part of Russia?

Gavrilov: The Memorandum envisages that the firm "Eisenberg" finds it possible to invest into the establishment of an agricultural corporation in Rostov region, while Israel, in the person of its finance minister, pledges to support the project on the basis of the agreement between Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy and Premier Yitzhaq Shamir. By and large, the "Eisenberg" was put in unique conditions: the firm relies on the state warranty which removes any political risk. This implies that on final account the choice should be made by us rather than by them, so long as they have already been accorded verily propitious conditions by any estimates. As far as we are concerned, we should be entitled to choose both the technology and the forms of finance and credit accounts.

Corr.: Apart from Israel, does Russia have any alternatives?

Gavrilov: Paradoxically, it does. To begin with, we can attain this goal by way of establishing an international financial foundation for the land and agricultural reform. It is not Israel alone that wishes to join it.

Corr.: Do you mean "Eisenberg" is running against the competitors which can provide even superior technologies?

Gavrilov: You are right. Yet I would like to somewhat shift the accent. Naturally, foreign agriculture-oriented companies have developed a great number of most up-to-date technologies, beginning with drop-type irrigation systems up to most sophisticated product processing procedures. In the meantime, our problem is that we are not utilizing our own—Russian—scientific potential for the sole reason that we have not adopted the land ownership legislation. Consequently, the agricultural workers are not interested in the final results of their efforts.

Coming back to the issue of choice-making, I am convinced that choice should be the prerogative of professionals. To effect this, we have already instituted a council for the land and agricultural reform in Russia. Considering that the council, composed of both scholars and practitioners, is vested with the authority to assess the level of know-how and the prospects for realizing various projects, the finance and credit policy should be controlled by those who invest their money.

Corr.: Does anything confuse you about the "Eisenberg" proposals?

Gavrilov: We are not content with the cost of the proposed barter-type transaction: the firm requests 400,000 tons [as received] of grain in exchange for a granary with the capacity of 10,000 tons of grain. I would rather give this proposal another thought.

Generally speaking, I believe that we should not invest only in Russia's southern regions. We are deeply in debt to the non-chernozem (low fertility soil) regions. They dominate in the central part of Russia. The standards of living there are extremely bad. Understandably, this region will not resolve all the food supply problems the country is facing. The feedback of that region will be notably lower than that of the southern regions. However, we should not overlook the fact that it is our principal potato growing region. For one thing, we don't grow many potatoes in the south. Our nutrition system, on the other hand, is based essentially on this product. So long as the potatoes are grown in the non-chernozem region, it requires adequate investments for its development.

As regards Kursk region, the main results of our trip there was our signing of an agreement with the "Carrol Group", a British agricultural company, which intends to invest up to 30 mn [million] pound Sterling into the formation of an agricultural concern specializing in the production and processing of beets for sugar.

Corr.: The June 4 session of the Russian government, chaired by Boris Yeltsin was addressing the project envisaging the establishment in Russia of the Land And Agricultural Reform Center. What are your impressions of this project?

Gavrilov: We had a serious discussion which lasted for over an hour. Boris Yeltsin approved the project in principle and requested that the conformable decree, with the consideration of the comments expressed during the discussions, be prepared for signing by June 15.

Corr.: What were the principal objections expressed by its opponents?

Gavrilov: There were two provisions that motivated the opposition. They were critical of Aleksandr Rutskoy's proposal to reinforce the government's control functions by way of incorporating into the government an agrarian unit, composed of several ministries and agencies, and subordinating it to one of the deputy premiers.

Our opponents contend that this measure may tilt the balance in the ecology and resources unit. This unit was set up in the Silayev government some time ago. The purport of that unit was to make sure that given the investment policy pursued by the government which provided centralized investments into the purification facilities, the unit assumed all the control and coordination functions regulating the activities of the ministries and agencies which had to do with the utilization of natural resources.

Corr.: So, the idea of this unit is not new?

Gavrilov: It certainly isn't. Such a unit already functioned giving complete freedom of action to all the ministries and committees incorporated in it. It was controlled by a single deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers who was pursuing a coordinated policy based on leasing of land. I am convinced that the Russian government's biggest mistake still lies in the fact that the state allows its enterprises to dispose of the country's natural resources free of charge, whereas they are sufficiently costly, especially the expendable resources. As a result, we are observing their waste. Enormous quantities of oil gas, for instance, are burned in the torches, rather than utilized. The key problem here is ownership. As of present, there is no difference between federal, regional, and municipal forms of ownership. When one or another oil deposit is allocated to an oil producing company, no one cares to determine its cost. Which is ultimately wrong. Moreover, this cost should include not only the estimated price of oil, but of the oil gas as well. In this case, the enterprise which has purchased an oil deposit will make sure that the money it has paid to the state will not be wasted.

Corr.: Could you be more specific about the government's objections?

Gavrilov: They are concerned that the new unit may "slice" the water resources committee or the forestry committee from the existing ecology and resources unit, as though it would be conceivable to cut from the earth its water and forest resources. Once we have resolved to address the land reform, we ought to count with the integrity of all the earth resources, be it land, forest or water. Any changes in the priorities of the economic reform necessitate the conformable changes in the organizational and control structures.

Corr.: What problems could arise if the forestry or water resources committee changes hands?

Gavrilov: They fear subordination to the ministry of agriculture, reasoning that in this situation this ministry would be allocating to agriculture most of the available funds, so long as it would not be directly interested in rational utilization of the country's forest and water resources. I personally believe that all these apprehensions are absolutely groundless since the principle of rational use of natural resources would be rigidly regulated by the money paid for their utilization, as I outlined earlier.

Corr.: Did the ministry of agriculture raise any objections on its part?

Gavrilov: The June 4 session was not attended by Viktor Khlystun. Yet I do know that he has certain reservations, as regards this center, arguing that it can grow into a super ministry. In my opinion, this will not happen provided we define our priorities right from the start. Incidentally, the President has defined them very clearly. In his words, the center will become a so-called strategic structure in charge for the land and agricultural reform. The ministry of agriculture, in the meantime, would become even more efficient, focusing on the management and control issues.

The opponents' other objection was the International Monetary Fund as the source of monetary resources for the agricultural reform. We are proceeding from the premise that in the long run, the efficiency of our reforms will depend, first, on the volumes of the finance and credit resources which could be spent on this reform; secondly, on the mechanism of application of these funds. Admittedly, the funds allocated by the government are all scattered, nor are they utilized for promoting any specific projects which have passed the expertise analysis. As far as the IMF is concerned, it will invest into our programs only after its experts have subjected them to two kinds of expertise: the expertise authenticating the project's up-to-dateness and efficiency, performed by recognized scholars in this area; and the finance and credit expertise which will be performed by the IMF experts, i.e., its founders who are directly interested in insuring optimum feedback from their investments. In addition, the IMF will perform a number of other important functions, such as attraction of foreign investments. It would also be possible to conduct the project financing policy relying on mixed capital investments. For example, 20 or 30 percent would be allocated by the state, and the remaining 70 to 80 percent invested by private persons. The monies, irrespective of their sources, ought to be invested into a sound enterprise. Unfortunately, today considerable resources are escaping to the West and remain there, where they are applied to generate interest. The situation can be changed dramatically, provided we make a courageous decision: guarantee to private entrepreneurs that following a reconstruction, 70 percent of an enterprise they have invested in will become their property. This idea is worth battling for, although it, too, will be torpedoed without any doubt.

Corr.: How does the vice president view this idea?

Gavrilov: He views it positively. He believes once we began our movement toward the market economy, we should not stop.

Corr.: What will be the significance of Boris Yeltsin's signing this decree for Russia and for the reforms?

Gavrilov: First of all, we will acquire an body which will assume responsibility for the reform strategy. Besides, the decree will produce a mechanism of realization of these reforms, such as finance and crediting.

Corr.: Is there a hope that following the signing of this document we will approach the acknowledgement of private ownership of land? According to the vice president, the reforms will not succeed without it.

Gavrilov: There are several aspects which cannot be overlooked. To begin with, Russia's President has already signed the decree on the mortgage right, which provides for collateralizing land. Its realization, however, requires a system which would accept these collaterals. In other words, we need land banks. Remarkably, the updated variant of the president's decree contains a provision for instituting the Central Land Bank of Russia. This will further promote the reforms, since the establishment of the mortgage right, the bank regulating the relations as regards the use of land, and, finally, the land courts stand out as the three proverbial elephants for the land reform to rely on.

Corr.: Does the draft decree envisage all this?

Gavrilov: Not all of this. The institution of the land courts is the prerogative of Rustlenasia's executive power.

Gorbachev Expelled From Communist Party

LD1506161592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1747 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow June 15 TASS—Former Soviet Communist Party General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev was expelled from the party last Saturday [13 June] for "the ruination of the party and the state and betrayal of the interests of working people," a resolution adopted at a meeting of members of the Communist Party Central Committee said.

Originally, the meeting was planned as a regular session of the CPSU Central Committee but considering the "situation following the Russian Constitutional Court hearings on May 26 and the appeal to the Constitutional Court," the participants decided to continue it as a plenary meeting.

The plenum voted to "hold the 20th CPSU conference by the end of 1992" and elected an organising committee. The participants also decided to "disband the politburo and the secretariat of the CPSU Central Committee as unable to ensure the party leadership."

The meeting was attended by members of the CPSU Central Committee and representatives of pro-parties.

General, Adviser Volkogonov Interviewed

PM1206113792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Jun 92 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Colonel General D.A. Volkogonov, Russian people's deputy, member of the Russian Federation Security Council, and adviser to the Russian president on defense questions, by Lieutenant Colonel Yu. Rubtsov, editor of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's Military-Historical Department, under the "Today's Interlocutor" rubric; place, date not given: "Russia Will Be Saved by Our Undying Love..."—first three paragraphs are boxed introduction]

[Text] **Visiting Card: Colonel General Dmitriy Antonovich Volkogonov**

Born in 1928. Joined the Armed Forces in 1949, graduated from the Tank Military School and the Military-Political Academy. Russian people's deputy, member of the Russian Federation Security Council, adviser to the Russian president on defense questions.

Doctor of philosophical sciences, doctor of historical sciences, corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, author of some 30 books. Work on the trilogy "Leaders" [Vozhdi] ("Stalin," "Trotskiy," "Lenin") is at its final stage.

[Rubtsov] Dmitriy Antonovich, today you are one of the most remarkable figures on Russia's political horizon. Adviser to Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, leader of a parliamentary faction, chairman of the State Commission for the Creation of the Russian Army...

[Volkogonov] I am just a scientist. I am involved in politics only in the light of the situation prevailing in the country. Honestly, had it been even slightly better I would have made way for someone younger a long time ago and would have gotten down to writing books. Society is at a turning point, and each and every one is simply duty bound to do something useful for it.

You mentioned parliamentary activity. Many people are criticizing the Supreme Soviet today. Not altogether groundlessly in general, but I must say this: Our parliament is a mirror image of our society.

S. Stepashin and I formed the "Left Center" faction a year ago. True enough, things are quite confused nowadays—who is on the left, who is on the right... Nonetheless, I still adhere to the viewpoint that the left center is an expression of moderation and dynamism. This is precisely what we need today, not extreme radicalism.

The "Left Center" is a small faction, comprising about one-eighth or one-ninth of all deputies. They are primarily members of the intelligentsia, professors, there are also representatives of industrial circles. Maybe we run to the microphones less frequently than others, maybe we get less involved in the numerous skirmishes, but on the other hand we try harder to work in commissions and committees and take part in the preparation of practical solutions. Now, for example, we are participating in the creation of a coalition of factions in defense of reforms.

[Rubtsov] Few people know that you spent a long time working as a professional forecaster. What, in you opinion, lies in store for our society in the future?

[Volkogonov] The most frightening point is that society is now in a state of permanent expectation. People are constantly expecting something: Yet another price hike, vagaries of privatization, personnel changes in the leadership, or whatever. I am extremely worried by this passive form of reaction to events. But it is also necessary to understand people: They are displaying tremendous patience despite the steady buildup of disappointments.

It is necessary to get through the period of vagueness, of frightening uncertainty. I would not like to play a prophet's role but, according to my estimates, we will reach the lowest point of the crisis only toward the very end of this year or the beginning of next year. And I do mean reach, rather than pass, because the "plateau" period may last two-three years. And the entire transition period may stretch over 10-12 years.

Do we have enough endurance, do we have enough patience and common sense, does our government have enough additional resources to prevent the reforms getting bogged down? If they do get bogged down, we will revert to the past. And then it will exact a cruel vengeance on each and every one of us. I think that it is very important for our government to make the economic reform more comprehensible: What are its stages and its end goals; how will its success (or failure) affect the ordinary people's lives; on what are the funds acquired through privatization and price hikes spent; and so on. People must be familiar with the essence of the reforms. I have my doubts whether they are familiar with it now.

[Rubtsov] This, presumably, is the lesson to be learned from past reforms?

[Volkogonov] Yes, reforms have been launched in Russia on numerous occasions. As a historian, I am afraid by the fact that the bulk of them simply failed to materialize. I have drawn this conclusion: One of the reasons is the fact that reforms were often headed by people standing on extreme positions. And yet reforms have been successful whenever people with a left-of-center orientation have stood at the helm—look at other people's history.

Any "eyeball-to-eyeball" situation is fraught with calamity. There are suggestions, for example, that parliament should be "dispersed" or "disbanded." None of this ought to be done. Even though the Congress as an organ of power is a flawed formation. We simply have to "grin and bear it" until the new elections when the population, which will have gained its own political experience, will elect different deputies, people committed to the cause.

I must say, though, that there are quite a few such people in parliament today: Andrey Golovin, Sergey Yushenkov, Mikhail Molostvov... They are different people, but they are creative. I think that people like them, in their forties, will soon enough be playing first fiddle. Generally speaking, now we have not just a transitional period but also—if I might use the expression—a parliament of a transitional nature.

[Rubtsov] This probably applies also to the Russian Army. What could you say in this context in your capacity as chairman of the state commission for its creation?

[Volkogonov] The first stage is virtually complete. Our state commission has almost completed its work, now it is up to the Ministry of Defense and the parliamentary committee. A few days ago the president signed the document on the Ministry of Defense structure which we submitted. Compared with the former Union ministry, it should be reduced by approximately one-third. New elements have emerged like, for example, structures associated with the withdrawal of and provision of amenities for troops under Russia's jurisdiction but currently stationed in Germany, Poland, the Baltic countries, Mongolia, and Cuba. Civilian staffers may be appointed to certain leadership positions for the first time. Generally speaking, the transition period will last at least five years. Attention in the immediate future should focus on the Army's social problems.

[Rubtsov] In your view, Dmitriy Antonovich, what role ought to be assigned to heroic and patriotic traditions in the Russian Army's organizational development?

[Volkogonov] One of the priority roles. It is no accident that President B.N. Yeltsin's well-known decree of 7 May this year speaks directly of the Russian Army as heir to all of the Russian nation's [Rossiyan] best military traditions. Both before and since October 1917. This is our spiritual legacy, our abiding values. True enough, not everyone accepts this. There are, for example, attempts to review our people's contribution to the rout of Hitlerite fascism and to reject the friendship of people as a mighty factor of victory.

In this context, I would like to make one reservation which will probably not be shared by everyone. I was grieved to see the disintegration of the Union. Yes, it was inevitable, like that of every empire. But we did hope that it would occur in a more civilized and less painful way...

[Rubtsov] And yet this is how it did occur, with grave consequences, with confrontation between republics which were united within a single union until only yesterday...

[Volkogonov] Alas, and this is the third (following the October Revolution and the Great Patriotic War) cataclysm that our country has lived through during the 20th century. This, incidentally, confirms the forecast by Vassiliy Osipovich Klyuchevskiy [19th century Russian historian] that Russia has to experience two or three major upheavals each century.

Nevertheless, I believe that the centrifugal tendencies currently prevailing in relations between the former Union republics are not permanent. They may, sooner or later, be replaced by centripetal forces. The possibility of creating a viable confederation can emerge as an ideal, as an attractive idea. While retaining their statehood and its attributes, the former republics could move toward a greater degree of community than the Commonwealth. It will probably not be joined by all former members of the Union, and this is likely to occur neither tomorrow nor the day after, but only after one or two generations.

This may be an utopia, it may simply be that the Union is still alive in my heart. But I repeat: I cannot rule out the possibility of a voluntary and strong confederation being formed. We have too much in common, too much that is inalienable.

I note with alarm today's vacuum in public awareness: There are no ideals, there are no values. The former communist ideals collapsed quickly. This collapse proves yet again their unviability. The Communist Party (18 million strong) disintegrated instantaneously because it is incapable of existing in a civic society where people do not bow to diktat, orders, and directives.

The emergent vacuum is being filled by the weeds of pornography and pop culture. And the most dangerous monster here is nationalism, which can lead peoples to tragedy.

I think that the genuine values of interethnic solidarity, Russian patriotism, freedom, and civic awareness have yet to find their place in public awareness. The main point is not to fabricate or invent anything. It is important to create prerequisites enabling people themselves to appreciate these values. They alone are capable of rallying people and helping them to withstand in these critical times. Until we learn that morality must go hand in hand with politics and economics, we will be shaken by crime, nationalism, and neo-Bolshevism. It is also important to respect universal human values, which has always been typical of Rus: conscientiousness, nobility of spirit, dignity, honor, courage. For example, I believe that Russia will ultimately be saved by our undying love for it. This is an abiding value rooted in our hearts.

[Rubtsov] Dmitriy Antonovich, you mentioned the Communist Party and communist ideology. Many people reproach you, a former political worker, for the views you hold today and almost accuse you of treason.

[Volkogonov] Yes, I did apply much effort to the consolidation of the communist system and I am not trying to evade responsibility for this. The painful evolution of my views is typical of many Russian intellectuals. I was a Stalinist, I was an orthodox Marxist for a long time, I did believe that this system could be reformed, as Gorbachev tried to do. But soon enough I realized that Communism and totalitarianism do not lend themselves to reforms, they simply had to exit the historical stage.

[Rubtsov] You head the parliamentary commission for the takeover and opening up of the CPSU and KGB archives. Could you tell us what impressed you most when studying these documents?

[Volkogonov] I took a look deep inside the corridors of power, opened up the pages of history which were closed to the people on the former regime's say-so. I was struck by the extent to which society is degraded when the most elementary things are shrouded in secrecy. An oblast party committee [obkom] instructor is appointed by the Central Committee—and the document is stamped "Secret." An obkom secretary travels to the Crimea on vacation—the relevant decision is made by the Central Committee Secretariat. A small group of party bosses decides whether there should be a conflict in Afghanistan. Ultimately I realized that a totalitarian state cannot exist without secrets. After all, it is only people who do not know and are not informed that are inclined to perceive power as something sacred, mystic, imponderable, and monstrously majestic and to automatically obey this monster's orders. All sorts of illegalities can be committed in such an atmosphere.

While studying voluminous materials for the period 1917-1990, I discovered a vast number of documents which must be brought to people's knowledge. For example, I calculated that 21.5 million of our compatriots were repressed between 1929 and 1953. This does not include war deaths. The system devoured its children. After studying numerous files I used to return home and often was unable to go to sleep, hearing the voices of people being killed off...

Take for example the Politburo documents from the Civil War period. The tsar's sizeable gold reserve was literally squandered on setting up communist parties and launching a world revolution. Meanwhile telegrams about wholesale famine were coming in from the Volga Valley region.

After Stalin you come across numerous operations for the targeted discrediting of various foreign figures, illegal transfers of money abroad... Once again, all sorts of illegalities and unlawful actions... No, such a system cannot be reformed.

At the same time, it ought to be realized that the system was like a parasite on the idea of social justice. And yet this is an ancient, Christian, immortal idea. It will not die now. The point is that social justice is not a synonym for the leveling which flourished in our lives.

[Rubtsov] Dmitriy Antonovich, our readers know that you are completing work on the trilogy *Leaders*. How does it reflect everything that you have said now?

[Volkogonov] The trilogy's final part—the two volumes on Lenin—should come out next year. It is no accident that I tried to perceive the revolution through the lives of its leaders. Biographical writing makes it possible to render the study of history more interesting. Whenever books about the past are written simply as lists of stages, periods, and schemas, the resulting history is lifeless, like a deserted street at midnight. I have tried to examine our revolution and the entire Soviet stratum of history through the lives of personalities who were elevated to the summits of leadership.

Take Lenin for example. Using this man's life as a prism, I will examine an entire era, the fate of Leninism. He was an historic figure, the major revolutionary of the 20th century (let me qualify this by saying that this is not a qualitative statement but an indication of scale). At the same time, however, Lenin is the source of many of our calamities, he personifies Russian Jacobinism whose essence is to build a "happy society" on the foundation of violence. Good through evil—this is a monstrous premise which the bolsheviks actually tried to implement. Everyone knows what the result was.

We used to live in some sort of an irrational world. This world must be rendered clear, transparent, humanitarian. At the same time, I have always adhered to the viewpoint that the past, no matter what it was like, is no excuse for derision or mockery. It is our past—great, terrible, tragic, but ours.

There is no need to exact vengeance on history. There is no need to laugh at history.

Ambassadors Briefed on Rising Crime Trends

PM1606092792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Jun 92 First Edition p 3

[Report from Russian Internal Affairs Ministry Public Relations Center: "Ambassadors Told About Crime"]

[Text] On 10 June Russian Internal Affairs Minister Viktor Yerin met with the chiefs of 70 countries' diplomatic missions accredited in Moscow. He familiarized the diplomats with the state of affairs in the fight against crime and answered their questions.

In the last three years the number of crimes against foreign citizens on Russian territory has increased. They are mainly thefts. There has also been a 41-percent increase in the number of criminal acts by our "guests." Thefts are top of the list here too. But other spheres of illegal business are also expanding, specifically deals associated with the export of Russian cultural treasures and the buying of items known to have been stolen.

Within the framework of the United Nations, Interpol, and bilateral relations the Russian Internal Affairs Ministry is forging close cooperation with other countries' law-enforcement organs. A multilateral agreement with 11 states on the fight against drug addiction was recently signed. Stable relations are being maintained with colleagues from the former Union republics. The minister noted that foreign firms had shown great interest in Internal Affairs Ministry specialists' studies in the sphere of the production of means of protection, weapons, and special means.

Yerin Views 'Serious Abuses' in Banking

LD1506220792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1619 GMT 15 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow June 15 TASS—Russia's law enforcement bodies have uncovered a 39 per cent rise of crimes involving bribe taking in May than in April, Russian Interior Minister Viktor Yerin said on Monday [15 June].

Yerin said the police revealed "serious abuses in the credit, finance and banking systems," and "a large group which used connections in the Central Bank of Russia and some commercial banks to cash bills, including by forging payment orders from the Northern Caucasus".

The minister said the operations amounted to 17 billion roubles, 50 million of which have already been confiscated. About ten people have been arrested.

The Interior Ministry urged the Russian parliament to sanction a financial inspection of the Central Bank. "After that we will be able to name officials involved in this affair," Yerin said.

Paintings, Icons Focus of Contraband Smugglers

PM1506131192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jun 92 First Edition p 3

[Article by Vladimir Kuznetsov under the rubric "Customs Service": "Contraband on a Diplomatic Passport"]

[Text] Last year 41 cases of the seizure by customs of "diplomatic" contraband were recorded at Sheremetyevo; its total value amounted to 1.5 million rubles [R] at the old prices. In the first three months of this year alone there were already 20 cases, worth R2.5 million at the new prices. One-half of contraband items are antiques and works of art. These "thieves without borders" are people who are exempt from customs inspections according to the USSR Council of Ministers resolution of 20 November 1953, which is still in force. I need mention only one fact: Hiroshi Nakajima, general director of the World Health Organization, was detained at Sheremetyevo in an attempt to carry six valuable icons out of the country. According to certain information, 80 percent of the 30 million icons which existed in the former Union as of 1980 have now been carried abroad.

The police services of the former East Germany have been sounding the alarm with increasing frequency of late over the detention in that country of cars loaded to the brim with vodka and imported cigarettes. Where from? From Russia. One of the channels through which the "merchandise" reaches that country is high-ranking officers terminating their service in the Western Group of Forces, Vladimir Yegorov, who occupies the post of deputy chief of the Russian State Customs Committee Administration for Combating Contraband, says. You see, senior officers enjoy the right of exemption from customs checks, and their wives are issued with special certificates stating that they are "army wives" and are also exempted from inspection when crossing the border.

Thus it was that recently two generals chanced upon 500 gas canisters, which are banned from import. One passed them on, the other received them. The sum at market prices "stretched" to at least one-fourth of a million.

In July last year the USSR Customs Code was adopted. After the collapse of the Union, the Soviet customs system in effect plunged into a period of anarchy, since the Russian code is still at the draft stage.

Who falls within the definition of "persons enjoying customs privileges" in our county? Well, a whole army of people, which until recently was augmented still further by numerous delegations of all kinds. There was even a case where a firearm was confiscated from a member of such a delegation traveling to a conference on disarmament. The category of "exemptions" also includes—in addition to senior officers—diplomats, deputies, and members of the Russian Federation Government, deputies and government members of the republics within Russia, and also top officials. Taking them all together, it would appear, that here too we were "ahead of the whole planet."

Voices are heard rather often from the Supreme Soviet about the total corruption of our society, but at the same time diplomatic passports are far from always justifiably issued to the "people's elected representatives." Curiously, in Great Britain, for example, the only person who enjoys such privileges is the queen. Even her spouse is liable to customs inspections. In the United States only the country's top leadership has these rights. Of course, with the exception of people who come under the 1961 Vienna Convention. For example, diplomats, but with one very substantial proviso—"in their country of accreditation." In our country, by mutual agreement with the former countries of the socialist camp, diplomats of all ranks enjoy immunity. In other words, this still applies to officials of the embassies of the former socialist countries, even when they come to us as tourists.

I was almost lucky enough (if this expression is apposite here) to meet another such foreign "privileged person" myself. True, as the saying goes, by hearsay, during a conversation in the Sheremetyevo Customs Office with Yuriy Bulakh, who heads the service for combating contraband. A call was received from the operations administration. "250 grams of gold ingots...plus hard currency?" Bulakh asks. "A foreigner, a diplomat?" What was this, journalist's luck, a coincidence? Judge for yourself, seeing that over the last 17 years there have been more than 1,000 cases of detention (of foreign diplomats); that is an average of about four-five per month! "Dealing with diplomats or our own 'people with exemptions' is not one of the most pleasant jobs," Bulakh says. "You must not be mistaken in such cases. The customs have the right to examine them only 'given sufficient grounds.' Simply when the customs officer is 100 percent certain."

It is to no purpose that many suggest that this Western fraternity are all rich fat cats. Recently the customs officers "shook down" one of these diplomats, and gasped in amazement. The diplomat was transporting six containers which he had declared contained "items for personal use," but which in fact contained thousands of pressure cookers, aluminum saucepans, hundreds of pairs of football boots, boxes of tennis rackets, and several dozen air conditioning units. But most interesting of all—there were also three military-style generator sets, each weighing one tonne. And according to international norms, diplomats are forbidden to engage in commercial activity. In other words, this is a clear case of contraband. But according to these same norms, even this term is, alas, not strong enough to describe the activity of this "diplomat." But what a grandiose scale!

They carry out everything: watches by the sackload and jewelry in suitcases. There was a case where smugglers were apprehended with seven suitcases full of chains. Of course, the traditional objects of unlawful export are gold and silver. This year there was even an attempt to carry out the horns of a saiga. Hard currency is also taken. Last year diplomats from a developing country were detained carrying into our country about R0.5 million in two suitcases. Others, on the contrary, wanted to take out 80,000, but dollars, rather than rubles. In short, "the spectacle of the life of a great man is always a great one," as Belinskiy [19th century Russian critic] used to say.

However, this applies no less to our compatriots. Last year a Soviet diplomat heading for Italy tried to carry out paintings and icons with him. I cannot bring myself to mention the name of a famous female opera singer of ours who took out ancient candelabras and canvases.

A special theme is that of the deputies' hall, which is nowadays called the "VIP" lounge. And do you know how much it costs to become one of these VIP's? Twenty-five rubles if you are traveling, R10 if you are escorting. True, you do need an application from an influential organization signed by someone not lower than a deputy minister. But how many of these organizations we have! Whole delegations travel on these applications. And when you have become a VIP, it is as though you are already untouchable. And what does it cost an escort while he is going up to the ramp of the airplane (which is allowed) to hand over a small box with a large diamond inside? You cannot detain anybody here without raising a furor, just as you cannot get by at all in this hall without shouts, threats, and mentions of "serious" names.

A furor did once erupt, when Sukharev, who was working as a diplomat, was detained. He was trying to carry four video recorders through the diplomatic channel—not his own, as was revealed. At the time this was classified as smuggling, since his official position was being used. The sum involved was a tidy one. His father was the then USSR prosecutor general, and everything was decided quickly and simply—by order. Even duties were not levied.

All the facts enumerated here are just the modest successes of the Sheremetyevo customs office alone. Well then, many think, why do they begrudge you taking a few grains of caviar? But of course, if you add up all these grains of caviar, before you know it you will have one very large fish. Within the last six weeks alone the "catch" at the airport amounted to one-and-a-half tonnes! And, of course, a diplomat, for example, has the right to take out up to six tonnes of personal belongings in containers. You can attempt to examine this freight if it goes through the baggage department. But what is to be done if it is transported in the passenger compartment of a train, or by automobile? One such trip can account for as much contraband as all the cases in Sheremetyevo for one year. Indeed, what do you have time to do in the VIP lounge, where VIP's can arrive 15 minutes before departure?

World experience indicates that customs services succeed in intercepting only 5-7 percent of contraband. Just think about that. And especially scrupulously when you write laws.

Further on Government Session on Privatization

PM1206145592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Vasiliy Kononenko: "In the Fall Russian Citizens Will Receive Privatization Checks"]

[Text] The 11 June government session in the building on Staraya Square began with a discussion of the main issue of the reform—how to make us all owners and at the same time not deprive various strata and categories of the population. It was formulated as follows: On the program for allotting privatization checks to Russian citizens.

The document, which is called "Principles of the Privatization Check System," envisages the issue of securities—one for every Russian citizen. This means approximately 150 million checks. It will be possible to use them to obtain shares in state enterprises and investment funds, and also to sell them for cash on an organized or free market like any other commodity. The Main Administration for the Production of State Bank Notes, Coins, and Medals has been instructed to print the checks; according to government estimates, 1.5 billion rubles [R] will be required for this. The whole operation will cost between R4 and 5 billion.

The session decided that since parliament will be on vacation soon, and time waits for no man, (the checks are supposed to start being distributed in the fourth quarter), the program will be implemented on the basis of a decree of the president which is to be issued before 1 July. Thus a legal base will be created for turning state enterprises into joint-stock companies.

Many participants in the session were interested in the question of the value of the privatization checks. A. Chubays cited sociological polls and reported that the lowest figure would be at least R4,000-5,000. His reaction to the smiles that this evoked: The value of the enterprises' property was calculated before 2 January. Consequently the checks will have a different value. But some questions remained unresolved. It is one thing to sell a check at Cheremushkinskiy market, and other to use it to buy a share in an enterprise at face value.

The procedure for introducing the privatization checks prohibits individual oblasts and republics within the Russian Federation from issuing these securities or subdividing the checks. They will have a limited period of validity—one year from the time the series is issued. They will be issued to citizens on the presentation of passport details and permits. The checks will cost each of us R50.

The question of payment-settlement and monetery-credit relations with the former republics of the USSR was also discussed. It was brought about by the fact that huge amounts of checks and securities are being pumped into Russia from the states of the ruble zone so that they can be turned into "live" money, which is generating the most acute tension as regards ready money. In order for all the complexities of this question and the interests of the partners to be taken into account, it was proposed that a package of measures be elaborated on the dates and conditions for receiving payments, which would be examined at the meeting of CIS heads of state 26 June in Minsk.

Chubays Interviewed

LD1106230392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 11 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The fate of the money of Russian citizens, the fate of their property was discussed today by the government. There are three ways: Selling public property to the rich, handing it over to the workers' collectives, or sharing it among all citizens. The third way, apart from the fact that it is obviously fair, also widens the social base of the reforms. The presence of property, as waa noted long ago by Stolypin, helps build a civic society and gives the individual a sense of his own dignity.

[Correspondent N. Chernyshova] Not for a long time can observers recall such a meeting of the government. Each issue was discussed with passion, was adopted swiftly, and was of vital interest for the people. The first documents were about the issue of privatization vouchers. As a matter of fact, our compatriots who stood by and saw all state property vanishing into somebody's private hands have almost reached the limit of their patience.

Therefore, fully understanding the complexity of the situation, the government decided to issue everyone, this year, with his share—everyone: from babies to the elderly. [video shows Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays addressing meeting of government with Gaydar in the chair; Chernyshova, interviewing Chubays in corridor]

[Chernyshova] Is this not a socialist way of sharing, because people's contribution to public property is unequal?

[Chubays] You know, this complaint arises fairly frequently. And I would say that this is the last socialist method in order to resolve the last socialist problem. From this moment on everyone acts himself, proceeding from his considerations, his values, his priorities, etc. But we give as it were a start possibility to all.

[Chernyshova] For these vouchers a person can buy shares of enterprises, send them for investment, or simply sell them making at least a little money to live on. By the way, experts believe that 30 percent of citizens will act precisely in this way. There are many difficulties. It is necessary to synchronize the issue of vouchers and shares. By the way, it is being promised that the president's decree will turn all organizations and enterprises into joint stock companies before 1 July.

Another almost insoluble problem is the danger that the vouchers will vanish abroad to foreigners near and afar. And one more thing, so far the value of one voucher has not been determined and conjectural estimates range from 700 rubles to 10,000, which in the view of a number of members of the government does not take into account the rate of inflation. As a result the draft decision for examination by the Supreme Soviet has been adopted but the details are to be specified separately.

A criticial situation has arisen also in the sphere of money circulation between Russia and the CIS countries. At the meeting the following data were quoted: In the ruble area 15 emission centers exist which print money. And only the Russian emission center is controlled by the Central Bank. The others print just as much as capacities allow and no one knows precisely how much this is. Indirectly this can be judged from the flow of noncash payments: in January 7 billion, in March 30 billion, and in April 70 billion.

The Cabinet of Ministers was unanimous that it is already pointless to hope for a multilateral agreement. It is necessary prior to the conference of heads of governments in Minsk to study unilateral measures to defend the ruble, suggest to the states that they urgently introduce their currencies, and conclude firm bilateral agreements with those who want to remain in the ruble zone.

National Assembly Ends; Program Adopted

LD1406222192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1525 GMT 13 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ludmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow, 13 June—The Russian National Assembly (RNA)—a public-patriotic movement which was created this February and which actively speaks against the present government—has held its two-day congress in Moscow. It adopted a "program of action to save the Fatherland," the rules of the RNA and "an appeal to the people" and a number of other documents.

The detailed "program of action" includes RNA proposals "to overcome a total crisis" as well as to "revive the economy" and principles in Russia's foreign and military policies.

The priority task of the RNA is to "remove the present government of national betrayal in a constitutional manner" and to create a "National Salvation Committee" [Komitet Natsionalnogo Spaseniya] which will be entrusted with full executive powers. The "supreme regulatory (rasporyaditelnaya) power" is retained by the president. Yet if he "actively resists a change of the government of national betrayal" then it is planned to impeach him.

The first stage of the program envisages "tightening the screws" in regard to discipline, carrying out monetary reform—including declaration of income—and introducing taxes on large fortunes. In the next few years, the RNA believes, only "small-scale privatization" is possible. In industry, state-joint stock forms of ownership are best suited to conditions in Russia, and in agriculture, the natural transformation of collective and state farms into multi-structure farms is best-suited. The document proposes to achieve "the great cause of spiritual and moral revival of Russia" through "the joint action of three forces: the state, the church and culture". The RNA considers that "the question of borders with other former subjects of the Federation of the USSR remains open. The Russophone population beyond the provisional borders of Russia must not be thrown to the mercy of fate". At the congress today a resolution on the Dniester region was adopted, which recognizes the sovereignty of the Dniester Republic and voices the RNA's intention to appeal to all state forces, including the army, if "the aggression against the Russophone population" continues there. The RNA program may become the basis for uniting all the national patriotic forces of Russia, Gennadiy Zyuganov, chairman of the coordinating council of the national patriotic forces, told the ITAR-TASS corespondent. The RNA, in his opinion, is striving to unite all patriots and various organizations, regardless of their political views, around the idea of preserving the "Russian national coloring" and strengthening the state. The movement, he affirmed, is without doubt an opposition movement, in so far as, in his view, "the existing government is pursuing an anti-national and anti-state policy". At the congress the members of the Assembly's ruling body—the Duma—were elected: these included RNA co-chairmen Aleksandr Sterligov and Valentin Rasputin, General Albert Makashov, writer Vasiliy Belov and others.

Sterligov Offers 'To Take Power'

LD1606080992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Aleksandr Sterligov, a retired KGB general, is prepared to take power, IMMA-PRESS reports, citing LITERATURNAYA GAZETA, where he was interviewed following the First Congress of the Russian National Assembly. Incidentally, that was where Sterligov was elected co-chairman of the Assembly.

Concerning the method of taking power, the ex-KGB general declared that first all constitutional avenues will have to be explored to the maximum, and then we'll see how things are. And an interesting point is that the Russian National Assembly unites such well-known but different personalities as Gennadiy Zyuganov [chairman of National Patriotic Forces], Yuriy Vlasov [journalist and famous ex-athlete], Vladimir Zhirinovskiy [leader of Russian Liberal Democratic Party], Stanislav Govorukhin [movie-maker], and Aleksandr Nevzorov [TV journalist].

Media Issues

Ostankino Still 'Under Siege' as Talks Begin

LD1506172892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 15 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] It is still very colorful around the Ostankino television center—red calico, yellow, black, and white flags, and khaki tents. Working Russia and Working Moscow are continuing their protest, and some of Moscow's able-bodied population are taking part.

Violations by picketers, who have been keeping the television center in Ostankino under siege since 11 June, were discussed today at a news conference in the Moscow Soviet. It was held by representatives of the law enforcement bodies and of the Moscow Government.

The point is that the city authorities allowed street rallies by the Ostankino television center, but banned the setting up of a tent camp there. But this camp exists, and you know this. The staff of the television center have difficulty in getting to the center. That is why 2,000 militia workers are now concentrated outside Ostankino.

However, it was noted at the news conference that if the talks which began today in Ostankino are successful, there will be no need to use these powerful forces. So, back to the talks.

A meeting between the interested parties began at 1700 in the main building of our television center. As you know, one side is demanding airtime on the First Channel of the Ostankino interstate television and radio company, and the other side wants the many-thousand-strong collective of the Ostankino center to be allowed to work normally.

Staff Runs 'Gauntlet of Insults'

LD1406164792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1445 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Comments by announcer Tatyana Mitkova following the end of the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] This news bulletin and its preparation since early morning have been accompanied by the sound of public address systems, megaphones, and songs from the civil war and collectivization eras. All day the songs "Kakhovka, Kakhovka, My Very Own Rifle," and "Hey Girl, Hey Sweetheart, Sing for the Country" can be heard.

This morning several women who work at the television center were spat upon by the Trudovaya Rossiya people in the picket line outside Ostankino, most of whom are men. Yesterday one woman who works here was beaten. Ours is a nonstop operation, so people are constantly starting or finishing work. They have to endure a gauntlet of insults for having the wrong color eyes or hair, as well as threats of violence. This has been going on for three days now, and nobody from the Moscow authorities responsible for public safety has even been here. For the time being everyone is keeping quiet and putting up with the insults, but someone might lose their temper. Is this what they're waiting for?

Today is Trinity Sunday. On Pentecost, especially for those shouting into megaphones that everyone in Ostankino should go to Israel, let me remind you of a moment in the New Testament, in the Acts of the Apostles. On the 50th day following the resurrection of Christ, the Holy Spirit descended upon his followers. These followers, the Apostles, were imbued with the Spirit and began to speak in different tongues hitherto unknown to them. We would like to learn just one tongue; but each to his own faith.

Strike Threatened

LD1506181692 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1500 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] For the fourth day Ostankino is under siege; for the fourth day we are unable to work under normal conditions. Last year we were blockaded by the putschists. Now it is pickets with red banners and chauvinistic slogans who are not letting us work normally.

The radio broadcasting labor collectives of the Ostankino Russian state television and radio company today held meetings where they unanimously expressed resolute protest against violence, moral and physical terror, and attempts to command and give orders to the mass media, wherever these might emanate. The resolution emphasizes a demand to all those responsible for what is happening around Ostankino to immediately end their pressure on the television and radio. We are calling on executive authority to guarantee our normal work. We are warning that if our words are not heeded, Ostankino will fall silent. We will stop our transmissions and declare a political strike of protest. Such is the will of the collective. These demands have been passed on to participants in the talks being held by representatives of the Russian Government and of the pickets.

Compromise Reached

LD1506202192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1906 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow, 15 Jun (ITAR-TASS)—Talks this evening between the leadership of the capital's Ostankino television center and representatives of the opposition parties of communist and patriotic orientation, who have been picketing the television center for four days, ended with an agreement that broadcasting time will be given to the opposition. This was reported by a Moscow television program announcer. He said the removal of the demonstrators' pickets from around the television center was a condition of this agreement.

The television center has been "under siege" for several days, and its employees have had difficulty getting into the building. Incidentally, they are being subjected to verbal abuse by the pickets, who set up a tent camp in the square.

Some 2,000 militia personnel have been concentrated outside the television center. Representatives of the authorities are calling on the demonstrators to be sensible. Otherwise, they say, they will have to follow the letter of the law, and this may result in "unpredictable consequences."

Mayor Threatens Removal

OW1606120192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1138 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The TV center in Ostankino will be picketed to the victorious end, leader of the Russian Communist Workers' Party and of the Working Russia movement Viktor Anpilov told IF [INTERFAX] on Tuesday [16 June]. He also said that the talks on June 15 between the Council of the Opposition Forces and the Ostankino directors had been a failure through the fault of Ostankino's Director-General Yegor Yakovlev.

Anpilov said that the two sides could achieve a compromise, but Yakovlev lacked flexibility which, he said, is typical of the workers of the old party apparatus. Yakovlev did not specify how regularly the opposition will appear on the air and demanded that the demonstrators' tents be removed.

As long as Yakovlev remains the TV center's director, we'll not find a compromise, said Anpilov.

MAYOR OF MOSCOW INTENDS TO REMOVE TENTS FROM OSTANKINO

If the demonstrators do not remove their tent camp from Ostankino on their own, the Militia will do so, Mayor of Moscow Yuriy Luzhkov announced on Tuesday. He said that neither the Ostankino leaders, nor the Russian Ministry for the Press and Information should have held talks with the demonstrators who "actually indulged in hooliganism".

Luzhkov said he was surprised that Yegor Yakovlev promised to allot viewing time to them, not to the opposition movements which are using civilized methods of work. Luzhkov also noted that Yakovlev had no right to allot viewing time to the demonstrators.

MOSCOW MILITIA READY TO FULFILL MOSCOW AUTHORITIES' ORDER TO REMOVE TENT CAMP IN OSTANKINO

Chief of the Moscow Militia Arkadiy Murashov told journalists on Tuesday that the Moscow Militia was ready to remove the tent camp from Ostankino, if the city authorities issued a corresponding order. He said that the Militia was strong enough to do so. Moscow's law-enforcement bodies expect the city procurator's office to give a legal assessment to the situation, said Murashov.

Government Leaders on 'Fourth Estate' Freedom

LD1406180792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Report from the "Novosti" newscast, including recorded remarks by Vice Premier Khizha, Press Minister Poltoranin, and State Secretary Burbulis]

[Text] Today the government also discussed the situation of the press. With the present prices of paper, pornography is becoming very profitable; therefore, if you want to read something decent in printed form, government aid is needed.

A member of the government, the health minister, today accused the press of lying, because, in his view, there have been no strikes or rallies by doctors, and everything is fine with medicine in Russia. This is not an anecdote—our correspondent heard his words with her own ears. The importance of free information in such conditions becomes even greater.

Nevertheless, most members of the cabinet are in favor of protecting the financial situation, and therefore the freedom, of the press.

[Khizha] I believe it is necessary to treat the mechanism, namely, to tackle the economic problems. We need the press, and people need to read, therefore it is necessary to allocate finances which will be used for these purposes. That is all there is to it.

[Reporter] It has been decided to support the mass media.

[Poltoranin] We got what we wanted. We carried through a government decision which envisages economic assistance to the mass media. But the fact that some members of the government opposed this measure shows that some people do not understand the role of the press.

[Reporter] So, for the time being power has not been taken away from the fourth estate.

[Burbulis] Power over the press is an insidious and dangerous thing, and all those who forget this ultimately lose their own power.

News Agency To Cover Political Party Affairs

PM1506132592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 2

["Own Information" report: "New Agency Will Represent Multiparty Life"]

[Text] There are now around 1,200 political parties, movements, and associations in Russia. But by no means all of them can afford a press organ and have a direct relationship with a far larger audience than just one or two hundred demonstrators. An awareness of the need to give all political forces without exception the opportunity to set forth extensively and regularly their program precepts or their position on a particular topical issue of social development gave rise to the idea of creating the independent news agency PARTINFORM, whose founder is the DELO information-publishing complex. The agency intends to cover events in the life of parties and movements regardless of the views to which they are committed.

Future of Radio Moscow Assessed

LD1506103892 Moscow Radio Moscow in French 1600 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Commentary by station commentator Aleksey Zlatorunskiy—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] We have received a letter from Algeria in which Bechir Toumin asks whether the recent political events in the former USSR have had repercussions on the position of Radio Moscow. His compatriot Abbas Derbazi asks a similar question, and exclaims bitterly: Is it possible that one day I will no longer hear this radio station which I like so much?

Dear Algerian friends, our commentator Aleksey Zlatorunskiy replies to you:

I would like to say to begin with that, having worked at Radio Moscow for many years, I am no less concerned about its fate than our listeners are. One has to say in all frankness that there are real grounds for anxiety. In fact, in the past, Radio Moscow broadcast in the name of the USSR and was a spokesman for its foreign and domestic policy. As in the other media, there was a strict system of control which saw to it that Radio Moscow's broadcasts were strictly in conformity with the official viewpoint and could not be said to constitute interference in the internal affairs of other sovereign states. [passage omitted]

I think that we have already passed the most difficult stage: Today Radio Moscow, which is officially called Radio Moscow International, is part of the Russian Radio Broadcasting Company. It was designed to coordinate its action with the other radio structures representing the CIS. This coordination is due to be entrusted to a special body which has already been set up. However, we are still only at the first stage, in the sense that it would not be incorrect to say that Radio Moscow broadcasts in the name of Russia. However, it is not only a matter of structural changes. The content and even the form of our broadcasts have changed. First, the system of total control has been abolished: journalists can tell listeners not only the official viewpoint on this or that issue, but also give their personal opinion. This has certainly enriched our programs and made them more interesting, as is testified by the letters from our listeners. I would dare to state that the critical period when voices were heard demanding that it cease its activities has passed.

Efforts are being made today at setting up a structure at Radio Moscow which will allow it to be used as broadly as possible to provide our listeners with multifaceted information on all aspects of life in Russia and the CIS, as well as the most important international events. If this process continues successfully, there is every ground to hope that Radio Moscow will have an even broader audience.

KURANTY Announces Resubscription

MK1206074592 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 11 Jun 92 p 1

[KURANTY editorial collegium announcement: "Resubscription to KURANTY by 1 July"]

[Text] Like you, we all buy things. And price hikes deal a severe blow to our wallets and our mood. You will therefore understand, dear subscribers, the reluctance and pain with which we are forced to take the desperate step of announcing a resubscription campaign. Although the total additional sum to be paid for the half-year is not all that great in today's terms—roughly the cost of a bottle of champagne or a few meals in a cafeteria—nonetheless it is very hard to extract these rubles from the family budget.

We held out as long as we could. Then we were warned by the Moscow Post Office of a gigantic hike in the cost of newspaper delivery to your door (and some of our other partners are also threatening to further inflate prices for their services) and we realized that we could not survive without turning to you. Just imagine, from July onwards the prime cost of a single copy of the newspaper will be 20 times more than the subscription price! No advertising can compensate for that. If we worked for around five years, we might manage to have the capital in reserve, but we are organizing all our affairs now, at vast expense.

As of today we announce resubscription for all our subscribers. The supplement for one month's subscription is 31 rubles [R], and R186 through the end of the year.

The editorial office will deal with all the hassle of resubscription.

You must go to your post office before 1 July and make a money transfer to account No. 609166 at Moscow's Frunze Commercial Bank, Routing No. 201412, KURANTY. You must give your zip code and mailing address on the transfer slip.

Anyone who does not resubscribe will not receive our newspaper as of July. We would very much like not to lose you.

Subscription will cost R52 per month for those people who did not subscribe before or failed to subscribe by the end of the year and intend to do so now. New subscriptions may only be taken out via post offices within the prescribed period.

We hope you will understand that we are motivated not by a desire to make a profit (that is no longer the case), but only by a desire to continue publishing a newspaper that has become one of Moscow's most prestigious and popular publications. Incidentally, the above sums do not compensate for all our costs.

Pensioners, invalids, and other impoverished people will find it particularly hard to take on additional expenditure. We therefore ask firms and organizations to sponsor this subscription campaign. The newspaper will provide you with journalistic support and publicize your work.

We hope to continue our cooperation with you, Esteemed Readers.

[Signed] KURANTY Editorial Collegium

Regional Affairs

Dudayev Meets Abkhazia Delegation in Groznyy

LD1506082892 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 0730 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] A meeting between Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev and a delegation from Abkhazia has taken place in Groznyy. According to members of the delegation, it is claimed that a Georgian battalion has been placed 300 meters from the building of the Supreme Soviet in Sukhumi in order to seize the building. A general mobilization has been announced in Abkhazia.

Chechen Leaders Fear Russians Plan To Invade

LD1506224292 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1832 GMT 15 Jun 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Groznyy—Chechen leaders state that there has lately been observed a concentration of troops, subordinate to the North Caucasian Military District, on the border between Stavropol territory and the Chechen Republic.

Lema Chabayev, head of the Chechen parliament's press service, told PF [POSTFACTUM] on June 15 that tanks and armored vehicles of the Russian Army had been brought closer to the Chechen border over the last five days. According to the spokesman, the military had increased their activities after units of Russian interior troops were brought into North Ossetia. Chabayev said that there are apprehensions in the Chechen parliament about the fact that these preparations may mean a possible invasion into the Chechen Republic. Yakov Firsov, head of the press center of the North Caucasian Military District, told PF: The North Caucasian Military District has more important things to do than prepare for an invasion into the Chechen Republic.

Weapons Used Against Dudayev's Supporters

LD1506215692 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1708 GMT 15 Jun 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Groznyy—On June 14, the opposition in the Chechen republic used arms against supporters of President Dzhokhar Dudayev. No casualties are reported.

Khasin Raduyev of the president's press-service also told PF [POSTFACTUM] on June 15, that several hundred supporters of Dzhokhar Dudayev held a meeting in the village of Znamenskoye demanding the resignation of the head of the executive power in the Nadterechniy region Umar Avturkhanov. Before Dudayev came to power in October, 1991, the latter was chairman of the regional executive committee, after which he declared himself mayor and refused to obey the new authorities. As the meeting participants approached the mayor's headquarters, automatic gun-fire was opened from the building where the mayor's supporters were barricaded in, and smoke-boxes were thrown at the crowd. The elders managed to interfere and stop the conflict. According to a representative of the Chechen authorities, General Dudayev's opposition mainly lives in three regions—Nadterechniy, Malgobekskiy and Nazranskiy, which is the home of the relatives of the former first secretary of the regional Communist Party committee Doku Zavgayev, the would-be governor-general of the Russian president in the Chechen republic Akhmed Arsanov and the current Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation Ruslan Khasbulatov.

Investigation of Chechen Funds Transfer Noted

LD1406220792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] Staff members of the Moscow City Internal Affairs Directorate have started investigating the biggest economic crime in Russia's entire history, connected with the transfer of funds to the Chechen Republic.

As follows from materials of the criminal case, since the beginning of 1992 documents and requests for credits for various enterprises and commercial structures have been arriving at various commercial structures in Moscow. Judging from documents, the SHCHIT I MECH newspaper notes, the amount involved is 25 billion rubles. This is 10 times higher than the annual budget of the Chechen Republic. Investigators have detained and arrested dozens of people involved in this affair.

Russia 'Would Be Insane' To Join Ossetia Fray

PM1506115592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Jun 92 First Edition pp 1, 3

[Report by own correspondent Aleksandr Aleshkin under the rubric "In Trouble Spots": "Will They Eventually See The Light?"]

[Text] The zone of the state of emergency in North Ossetia is widening.

These measures were necessitated and caused by the worrying events that have taken place in recent days: attacks on troop units for the purpose of seizing weapons, and the hijacking of 12 self-propelled guns.

The most alarming thing so far was the attempt to draw the army and Russia into combat actions. The details of illegal acts to seize weapons have become known. Gunmen used women and children as cover. They tricked the women, saying: The military command has been bought off, don't be afraid, they will not fire. But that is a lie. Carrying out the order of Russian Defense Minister Army General P. Grachev on the protection of military facilities, the soldiers fired warning shots. But they had no effect. They opened fire. Three people were killed and 18 were wounded.

Council of Ministers Chairman Sergey Khetagurov came straight to the point: "There are forces in South Ossetia that do not want peace because they would then have to answer for what they have done. Only last year we tried to warn them against taking the wrong steps." He totally rejected the expectations of certain South Ossetian leaders (these people exist in North Ossetia as well) that Russia will enter the military conflict with Georgia. Moscow is providing the necessary assistance in word and deed. In view of the influx of refugees (there are around 120,000 of them) 250 million rubles [R] are being allocated from Russia's meager resources. Three heavy aircraft carrying humanitarian aid arrived in Vladikavkaz 13 June.

A special-purpose division together with military hardware has arrived in North Ossetia to maintain the state of emergency. The troops are prepared to maintain peace and tranquillity in the republic strictly in accordance with the law. As is well known, the Kazbegi protocol envisages the creation of a combined subunit of Afghan veterans whose job is to separate the opposing sides and disarm them. Russia is prepared to arm, equip, and maintain this battalion.

The problem lies elsewhere. Among the local population there are not many who want to join the ranks of fighters. Many young men among the refugees are well established on stalls in the kolkhoz markets of Vladikavkaz. Some leaders of the national movement, at rallies and in the local independent press, prefer to expose what they see as a treacherous policy on the part of the Russian leadership, which is not casting guys from Ryazan and Yaroslavl into the inferno.

Yuriy Bzayev cited the following example. Youth leader V. Gobozov—a southerner who has lived in Vladikavkaz for a long time—organized a large rally of refugees outside the local television building to demand more military aid for Tskhinvali from Russia. OK, they told him, tomorrow you will receive all the weapons, so go and defend the just cause. But the next day none of the rally participants got to the assembly point. Gobozov did not turn up either.

So it is unjust, senseless, and fatal for the Ossetian people themselves to artifically exaggerate the "Russian problem." There are plenty of real, rather than farfetched, problems in their life as it is. Anti-Russian sentiments have been manifested of late both in daily life and at rallies. But they are not and cannot be a general phenomenon.

The republic's Russian population, together with their brothers, are deeply affected by the South Ossetians' tragedy. Like the majority of the Ossetian people, they believe Russia would be insane to join in the armed conflict against an independent southern state.

Lawyers Taken Hostage Released in North Ossetia

LD1506181192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1545 GMT 15 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow, June 15 TASS—Four hostages seized on June 11 in North Ossetia were released on Monday [15 June] due to mediation by local parliamentarians, TASS learned from the Russian prosecutor's office.

The four turned out to be military lawyers who had arrived in Vladikavkaz to investigate the Ossetian attack on a military object in the city where a large amount of weapons was seized.

The military prosecutor of the Vladikavkaz Garrison, Colonel Tyrkov, the chief investigator, Captain Mokritskiy, were among the hostages.

Ossetian militants demanded weapons in exchange for the hostages.

Arkhangelsk 'Paralyzed,' Gas Shortage Noted

PM1506145592 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Video report by L. Lapushina and I. Zamkova; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Lapushina over video of plant entrance] Today the entrance to the CIS' biggest nuclear submarine repair facility is deserted. The same picture is expected throughout the current week. As a result of electricity and heat shortages almost all the production units of the "Sevmash" enterprise are at a standstill. The "Polyarnaya Zvezda" instrument-building plant is expected to come to a halt. The defense industry giants are standing idle. For the same reason children's establishments in the city are closed. The city is paralyzed.

The major plants' client, the Navy, owes 300 million rubles. Northern Fleet personnel have not yet received their pay for February. The plants have no money to pay people with, and the thermal power stations have no cash to buy the next shipment of heating oil. There is a gasoline shortage in the city.

The Arkhangelsk Administration for the Power Service [Arkhenergo] is planning a strike. It is quite possible that the Ministry of Defense will have to introduce its own money certificates [denezhnyye sertifikaty] in the near future. [video shows plant entrance, shoreline with cranes and plant in the background, street scenes, power station fuel tanks, deserted filling station]

Moscow Signs Trade Agreements With Republics

LD1406215292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] The Moscow Government has concluded an agreement on trade and cultural cooperation with

Georgia, Byelarus and Kazakhstan. The MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper was told this by the mayor's office press center.

Moscow will supply these republics with nonferrous metals, gas and fuel, motor vehicles and electrical goods. Kazakhstan will supply Moscow with bulldozers, machine tools, ceramics and also food.

Muscovites Support Yeltsin 'Overwhelmingly'

LD1306104792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2133 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow, June 11 TASS—Muscovites continue to overwhelmingly support President Boris Yeltsin and would re-elect him if elections were held now, according to an opinion poll, conducted in the Russian capital.

Seventy-nine per cent of those polled said they would vote for Yeltsin. On June 12, 1991 Yeltsin became president, winning 72 per cent of the vote in Moscow.

Voter turn out, however, would be lower, since 40 per cent of respondents said they would stay away from polling stations.

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, who ended third in the presidential race last year, too is more popular now than he was a year ago. If last year Zhirinovskiy won 4 per cent of voters in Moscow, currently he can rely on the support of seven per cent.

The poll was conducted by the "Mneniye" independent service led by Grigoriy Pashkov.

Moscow To Send 10,000 Servicemen to Reserves

LD1306155392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] At least 10,000 servicemen serving in Moscow oblast will be transferred to the reserve within the next three years. This is what Aleksandr Kulakov, deputy chairman of the Commission of Moscow Oblast Soviet for the Issues of Armed Forces, Security, and Conversion, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent. According to him, the majority of regular servicemen will not be able to adapt themselves quickly to new conditions or to find a new job. Preliminary estimations have shown that the additional training for an officer will cost from 10,000 to 70,000 rubles; the oblast does not have such means though.

Nationalities Spokesman Views Tatarstan Policy

PM1206092492 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jun 92 First Edition p 4

[Correspondent Dmitriy Mikhaylin report: "Tatar Language Not Only in Tatarstan"]

[Text] Valeriy Tishkov, chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for Nationalities Policy and member of the Russian delegation to talks with Tatarstan, visited Kazan for the first time in May.

Visiting the headquarters of the Tatar Social Center, he reported that a discussion of the concepts of Russia's nationalities policy is planned. Valeriy Tishkov shared his view of Russia's nationalities policy in relation to the Tatars—the second largest nation on the country's territory. In his opinion, it is necessary to:

—extend Tatar representation on all Russia's top power structures, including the government, foreign economic and diplomatic departments, and international organizations;

—delegate wholly or partly to Tatarstan questions relating to Tatars living outside the Republic of Tatarstan. "In those oblasts where the Tatar population is concentrated," Tishkov stressed, "official bilingualism could be introduced";

—de-Russify the cultural mainstream in Russia, in particular the mass media. "If we can allocate television time to the Spanish language, we can certainly find time to broadcast in Tatar," the minister said.

Valeriy Tishkov warned the Tatar Social Center against any drastic actions against the Russian population of Tatarstan, saying that the point has now been reached beyond which the danger of disintegration in Russia could provoke a wave of protest from the Russian population. And in view of the unusual ethnocultural proximity of the two peoples, it is hard to predict the consequences.

Activists of the Tatar Social Center, hearing the minister's speech, saw undisguised threats in it, and did not fail to tell the guest so, reminding him that Tatarstan is not part of Russia, and never has been. "The struggle we are now waging for Tatarstan's independence," Damir Iskhakov, chairman of the Tatar Social Center Political Council, stressed, "is a struggle for the liberation of the Tatar people from colonial oppression...."

Valeriy Tishkov stressed in a brief interview for ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA's correspondent that he regards and continues to regard national processes in Tatarstan as processes taking place in a republic which is an integral part of the Russian Federation.

Tatarstan To Pay Share of Former Soviet Debt

OW1406151092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1353 GMT 14 Jun 92

[From the 15 June "Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tatarstan (a republic within the Russian Federation) has accepted responsibility for paying part of the foreign debt of the former Soviet Union, but plans to do this according to its own policy which is different from Russia's.

Tatar Vice Prime Minister Ravil Muratov told Interfax that the Tatar government will pay off its share of the foreign debt itself, and at the same time the government will free republican enterprises from mandatory sales of their hard currency.

Annually, according to Muratov, Tatarstan pays Russia $500 mn [million] to pay off the debt, and more than 50% of hard currency earnings are used for this purpose. In 1993 the republic will insist that the amount taken from enterprises is no higher than 15-20% of hard currency revenues; this is sure to become a topic of negotiation with the Russian government. It is assumed that enterprises will receive the right to freely dispose of all remaining currency revenues.

Muratov also stated that Tatarstan does not plan soon to get large credits from the West or ask for part of the $24 bn [billion] in IMF credits. According to the Vice Prime Minister, the republic, which has great export potential, is more in need of direct Western investments. Priority has been given to oil drilling, the chemical industry, heavy machine building and transportation machine building.

Tartar Protesters Want Respect of Russian Laws

OW1206190492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1532 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Kazan, supporters of the Citizens of the Russian Federation movement held a manifestation to mark Russia's Independence Day. Among the participants were also representatives of the Accord movement, of the Democratic Party of Russia and of the Republican Party of the People of Tatarstan, as well as Tatarstan's MPs [members of parliament] and deputies of the Kazan City Council. The demonstrators protested against the local authorities' decision to make June 12 a working day.

The protesters carried the national flags of the Russian Federation. They urged to respect and fulfil the Russian laws because Tatarstan is part of Russia despite its independent status.

New Kamchatka Paper To Publish 'Folly News'

LD1306184892 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1520 GMT 12 Jun 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy—The first official FOOL OF KAMCHATKA appeared in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy.

The first issue of the new newspaper under this name was prepared for the press in Kamchatka on June 12. The newspaper's founders are the staff of the regional newspaper VESTI and the BUSINESS-PRESS AGENCY.

The weekly FOOL OF KAMCHATKA was registered in the regional inspectorate for the protection of the freedom of the press and news media on June 4 as a regional satirical and comic publication.

FOOL OF KAMCHATKA will appear late in June. The eight-page weekly will have the A-3 format and have a circulation of 5,000 copies.

FOOL OF KAMCHATKA editor Aleksandr Smyshlyayev told PF [POSTFACTUM] the founders of the weekly were against this name but the staff of the new publication like this name and think it attunes with the newspaper's thrust as it will publish folly news.

National Affairs

Donbass Residents Picket Supreme Soviet

LD1606112192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0800 GMT 16 Jun 92

[From "Novosti" program]

[Text] Economic demands are being made on the goverment and Supreme Soviet of Ukraine today by the inhabitants of Donbass. More than 1,000 miners, drivers, staff from cultural establishments, teachers, and doctors from the region have arrived in Kiev to picket the building of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet on the day its session begins work. The pickets are demanding that Donbass be given the status of a free economic zone and that social conditions be improved.

Kravchuk Visits Antonov Aviation Complex

LD1406130192 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1854 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk today visited the scientific and technical aviation complex named after Antonov. The head of state was acquainted with the program for the development of Ukraine's aviation industry. It envisages the effective use of the scientific production potential of defense and other sectoral enterprises in conditions of Ukraine's independence, providing for Ukraine's own needs in aviation technology, and Ukraine's entry onto the world market.

Taking part in the discussion of the program were ministers and leaders of aviation enterprises in Ukraine. Leonid Kravchuk highly appraised the program for the development of Ukraine's aviation industry. I am convinced, he told journalists, that Ukraine has all the potential to make its aviation construction one of the best in the world.

Procurator Called To Act Against LDP

LD1406124892 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] The editorial office has received an appeal from the Coordinating Council of the Bloc of Democratic Forces addressed to the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine, the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Crimea, and the general procurator of Ukraine, which support the position of Crimea within Ukraine. It states that on 7 June 1992 Zhirinovskiy, head of the Liberal Democratic Party of the Soviet Union [LDP], with the support of the Russian Society of the Crimea, held an unsanctioned rally in the center of Simferopol. In his speech, in a tactless and politically adventurist manner peculiar to him, Zhirinovskiy called upon the inhabitants of the Crimea to act in a way directed at separating the Republic of the Crimea from Ukraine and its incorporation into a new Russian state [preceding three words in Russian].

This trip and the deliberate unlawful actions can only be regarded as gross interference in the internal affairs of Ukraine and the republic of the Crimea. The day before, 6 June, members of the LDP Central Committee and Anatoliy Los, head of the Russian Society of the Crimea, held a news conference for Crimean journalists. In their speeches the named activists called on progressive generals to lead a new coup d'etat which would bring prosperity to the people and a new rebirth to the Russian state. Mr. Los expressed the hope that the new political forces which are gaining strength in Ukraine will soon sweep away the present nationalistically oriented leadership of Ukraine.

Thus, the organizers of the news conference openly called for a change of power and a change in the territorial integrity of Ukraine by violent means, which is a violation of the Constitution of Ukraine. For this reason, the Coordinating Council of the Democratic Bloc of Crimea with Ukraine appeals to Shyshkin, the general procurator of Ukraine, with a demand to take immediate steps to outlaw the activity of the organization in the Crimea, whose actions violate the Constitution of Ukraine and lead to exacerbating tensions in the Republic of Crimea.

Officers' Union Council Voices Concerns

PM1106104792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Jun 92 p 3

[Colonel V. Bogdanovskiy report: "Ukraine Officers' Union Coordinating Council Recognizes Fall in Army Discipline. But Gives Differing Reasons"]

[Text] Lvov—A meeting has been held of members of the Ukraine Officers' Union [UOU] Coordinating Council from those oblasts on whose territory troops from the Carpathian Military District are deployed. According to the mass media, those present frankly stated that there are continuing cases in the district's units of weapons and munitions being purloined, and the number of burglaries of apartments by servicemen is increasing. Lieutenant General V. Stepanov, commander of the district, has stated that service by soldiers and warrant officers at their places of residence does not help to maintain discipline and order.

It was also stated that certain garrisons are unwilling to bid farewell to the "trappings of totalitarianism." Portraits of stagnation-era leaders and slogans in honor of party congresses continue to hang on the walls at the Zhitomir Garrison, as they did in the past. Of course, this is not the result of a great fondness for the past on the part of the Army. But many officers and warrant officers simply lose heart and lack any particular desire to work when there is no real future in the service.

Admittedly Major General of Aviation A. Antonets, army commander, has expressed the view that because of their personal qualities by no means all officers and warrant officers should be given the chance to take the oath to Ukraine. It is now obvious, in the general's opinion, just what this has led to—there is no order or discipline in the army. But, clearly, we need to bear something else in mind too. The forthcoming reduction in the Ukrainian Armed Forces is creating serious social tension among the officer corps. So it was no accident that there was criticism at the UOU Coordinating Council meeting of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, where a "power struggle" [borba za kresla] is under way.

Ukrainian Diaspora Officers Write Draft Decree

AU0806144692 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] On 7 June, the first congress of officers of the Ukrainian diaspora was held in Kiev under the motto for Return to the Motherland. Its participants elaborated a draft Ukrainian presidential decree on the creation of a Main Examination Board that will give exams to every officer and will, on a competitive basis, confer them the right to serve in Ukraine's Armed Forces. This will help create a professional and battleworthy army by 1994, and not by 1998 or 2000 as was decided by the Ukrainian Government.

In a few days, such a draft decree will be submitted to Ukraine's president, parliament, and to the minister of defense for analysis and decisionmaking.

At the end of this summer, officers of the Ukrainian diaspora will meet at their second congress to discuss the response and outline a corresponding plan for further actions.

Trade Unions Seek Negotiations With Government

LD1406195192 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1414 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] The Consultative Council of Independent Trade Unions of Ukraine has appealed to President Leonid Kravchuk to weigh realistically the social situation in Ukraine and to help by holding negotiations in the very near future.

The statement, which was handed over during a "roundtable" between the Ukrainian president and representatives of trade union associations, notes in particular:

For some time, the president, the Supreme Soviet and the Government of Ukraine have voiced concern over the impoverishment of the people and have promised to do everything possible to prevent a social explosion. Nevertheless, as reality shows, these are only words.

From February to May of this year, the trade union associations which are members of the Consultative Council of Independent Trade Unions of Ukraine submitted for consideration tariff agreements. The trade union associations announced that they were ready to go on strike, and waited for a response from the government on a start of negotiations. Unfortunately, the social protection of pilots, engine drivers, air traffic controllers, miners, and aviation technicians has yet to be considered.

In their statement, the Consultative Council of Independent Trade Unions of Ukraine warns that it will not allow the interests of its members to be ignored and will make the authorities take notice. If after a period of one month negotiations are not held between a commission of the consultative council and the Ukrainian Government on the issue of signing tariff agreements, the trade union associations will call on their organizations to go on strike to demand the resignation of the government.

Reserve Land Allotted for Private Farming

LD1006163392 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1147 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] Kiev—Ukraine has allotted 179,000 hectares of land from the republic's land reserve for 9,100 private farms by June 1.

According to figures supplied by the Ukrainian Agriculture Ministry, over 212,000 hectares were set aside for vegetable growing plots and 20,000 hectares—for collective gardening plots. The Ukrainian State Land Committee took stock of areas that can be used for agriculture and formed a land reserve of 3.1 million hectares on June 1. It also registered 3.8 million citizens willing to work land some or other way—on gardening or vegetable growing plots and in farms.

The republican Ministry of Agriculture believes that the land reform in Ukraine is accompanied with some difficulties generated by the absence of a range of legislative acts and statutory instruments. Specialists at local soviets also lack experience in this work. In addition, experts think the reform is also hobbled by the failure to take stock of lands used for the needs of the heavy industry, the communications and defence industries and for other purposes.

Two Social Democratic Parties To Merge

AU1606071692 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] A joint congress of two Ukrainian parties—the Social Democratic Party and the United Social Democratic Party—is planned to be held this coming fall. This was stated by the Information Service of the Ukrainian Social Democratic Party. An interparty bloc has already been created in order to coordinate actions and facilitate the process of amalgamation of the two parties into a single political force.

It is planned to hold a scientific and practical conference on the problems of Ukrainian social democracy and federal structure of Ukraine.

Moldova

'Ex-Terrorist' Accuses Ministry of Terrorism

LD1506174192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1530 GMT 15 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, June 15 TASS—The morning communique by the Dniester Government's press centre is distinguished by its conciseness: "The past 24 hours passed without fighting and skirmishes."

Also today, the press centre handed over to ITAR-TASS a statement by Vladimir Garbuz, the 45-year-old Moldovan from Kitskaniy village of Slabodzeyskiy district and a Moldovan Popular Front activist. The statement says: "At the third congress of the Moldovan Popular Front held in Chisinau in February, our leader Mircea Druc openly called for a vigorous activity to rout the unlawful armed groups. Since that time, the Moldovan Popular Front's Tiraspol division has become actively engaged in masterminding terrorist acts. The Moldovan National Security Ministry exercised guidance over our activity. Several groups dubbed 'Buzhor' were formed to stage acts of terrorism."

Garbuz himself was a member of one of such groups of terrorists. He furthermore reports that automatic weapons, ammunition, grenades, including anti-tank ones and Romanian-made sniper rifles were supplied to them to stage such actions.

"After acts of terrorism were staged against several managers of Slabodzeyskiy district, we were received by senior executives of the Moldovan National Security Ministry where we heard the positive assessment of our activity. We were invited to a lavish dinner and had a brief rest in the smart hotel. National Security Minister Plugaru put a new task to us—to prepare and carry out a series of new terrorist acts to destroy several national economic facilities: oil terminals, fuel and lubricants storages and railway bridges, and also to eliminate several staffers from the Dniester Government apparatus."

The document concludes as follows: "The sharp transition by the Moldovan Popular Front from political methods of the struggle to large-scale terrorist activity against the Dniester region prompted me to revise fundamentally my stance and role in the national- patriotic movement. I decided to come up with statements appealing to my fellow citizens, politicians and public figures: do not allow these plans to be implemented, do everything possible for the bloodshed on our beautiful land of Moldova to be terminated."

As was already reported, Moldovan People's Deputy Andrey Tsurkanu accused the Moldovan National Security Ministry of organising all kind of provocations. The statement by ex-terrorist Garbuz demonstrates that the deputy's charges are grounded.

Commission Drafts Document To End Conflict

OW1506172792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1641 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovsky, and Vladimir Shishlin from "Presidential Bulletin;" transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [15 June], the mixed comission's session in Bendery is expected to complete the drafting of the document on terminating combat operations in the zone of conflict in the Dniester region and on disengaging the armed formations of the Moldovan police and the Dniester guards to the places of their permanent dislocation. This document is expected be submitted to Moldovan parliament on Tuesday [16 June].

The Moldovan president's national-security and military adviser Nicolae Kirtoake informed IF [INTERFAX] that the mixed commission set up a joint body consisting of commanders of the conflicting armed formations. He said this body has been charged with the task of building a network of observation posts all along the line of conflict, whose work will involve deputies of all levels plus representatives of the armed formations.

Kirtoake also said that on Sunday [14 June], the mixed commission proposed switching Russia's 14th Army located in the Dniester region over to Moldovan jurisdiction and attaching it subsequently to the Moldovan armed forces on the condition that the conflict is solved by political means. Kirtoake believes that this would help solve the social problems facing this army's servicemen.

He also said that the mixed commission has developed a mechanism for [word indistinct] the conflictive forces. During the first stage the armed formations must be disengaged; the roads must be cleared of the mines and the blockade lifted from them. During the second stage, the formations are expected to be moved to the places of their permanent dislocation. A certain number of policemen and servicemen will stay in the zone to see that the agreements are implemented.

The mixed commission's peace-making efforts would help improve the situation in the conflict zone. Last night was relatively calm, he said. Only individual shots were fired and sub-machine gun bursts were heard. There were no victims.

Official Proposes Incorporating Guards in Army

LD1606080792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0751 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By Moldova-Pres]

[Text] Chisinau, June 16 TASS—Addressing a mixed deputy commission for the peaceful settlement of the armed conflict in Moldova's Dniester regions, First Deputy Defence Minister General Pavel Creangae proposed the following version of handling the fate of the Dniester guards:

All units with their weapons and military equipment should be incorporated in the Armed Forces of the Republic of Moldova on a voluntary basis under contracts with the Moldovan Defence Ministry and in accordance with Moldovan legislation. Those who do not wish to continue their service with the Moldovan Armed Forces will be retired in keeping with the procedure envisaged by the law.

All categories of servicemen of the Dniester guards who join the Moldovan Armed Forces are promised the preservation of their military ranks and the record of service with the armed forces of the former USSR and the Dniester guards and the provision of retirement pensions in accordance with Moldovan legislation.

The Defence Ministry also suggested immediate negotiations on the transfer of Fourteenth Army, deployed in the Dniester region, under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Moldova. Until an agreement is reached, the Army should keep full neutrality and have military equipment and arms, that were earlier seized from the Army or transferred to armed groups, returned to it.

The Moldovan parliament is due to discuss this proposals at today's meeting.

Sporadic Clashes Reported in Dniester Region

LD1606102292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0852 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, June 16 TASS—Skirmishes between the warring units of the Moldovan police and the Dniester guards broke out sporadically in the Dniester region of Moldova today. The parties charged each other with violating ceasefire.

According to Moldovan Defence Ministry, police units came under intensive automatic gun and mortar fire here. The guards took advantage of the ceasefire to relocate and strengthen their positions near Dubossary. According to preliminary data, four people were killed by mine explosions. The police did not open fire.

According to the Tiraspol Press Centre, sporadic shootouts last night killed two militiamen and wounded two people near the city of Rogi in the Dubossary district.

While skirmishes continued near Dubossary, the Moldovan parliament in Chisinau discussed ways of settling the crisis. The same problem is on the agenda of the parliament of the Dniester Republic Chisinau refuses to recognise.

Parliament Hears Reports on Dniester Conflict

AU1606114492 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1000 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Nicolae Dumitru report from Chisinau]

[Text] The parliament of the Republic of Moldova resumed its proceedings at 1000 today. The proceedings are also being attended by a group of deputies from the rayons on the left bank of the Dniester River. Military experts and observers from the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Romania, and Ukraine are attending the meeting as guests.

In the first part of this morning's session, the parliamentarians heard reports by the ministers of defense, Mr. Ion Costas; internal affairs, Mr. Constantin Antochi; and national security, Mr. Anatol Plugaru. The ministers' reports drew attention to new violations of the cease-fire and to intensified war preparations by the separatists.

In this context, the information provided by the minister of national defense according to which the guardsmen—making use of the fact that the troops of the Republic of Moldova do not open fire even when they are provoked—have occupied advanced positions and are making preparations for offensive operations was of importance. At the same time, the sometimes forced recruiting of people by the guardsmen and the 14th Army continues.

Next, the president of the joint commission and parliament Vice President Victor Puscas presented a report on the activity carried out by the commission since it was set up on 11 June. Puscas emphasized that two documents had been prepared to be submitted to parliament for discussion. The accord on the principles of the peaceful settlement of the armed conflict and the establishment of peace and proper understanding in the eastern rayons of the Republic of Moldova and the decision of the joint commission on the settlement of the armed conflict in those rayons. Two versions of the latter document were presented: the one of the commission members from the left bank of the Dniester, who propose only a mechanism for military disengagement, and the version of the other commission members, which also includes a number of tangible political proposals that are to accompany the disengagement and disarmament process of the Armed Forces.

Deputy (?Gimpolotov) from the left bank of the Dniester made certain specifications by emphasizing that the deputies from the left bank of the Dniester have received a mandate entitling them to act only toward an immediate cessation of the armed conflict and the bloodshed. He said that certain statements made by some of the separatist leaders do not express the opinion of the majority of the population on the left bank of the Dniester.

After the presentation of the documents, it was decided that they be discussed by groups of deputies set up on the basis of territorial or political affiliation principles.

Tajikistan

Rumors Nabiyev Met With Former Allies Denied

OW1506173092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1642 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin from "Presidential Bulletin;" transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The president's press service has officially denied reports by Tajikistan's united democratic forces that Rakhmon Nabiyev had a secret meeting with former vice-president Narzullo Dustov, ex-chairman of the parliament Safaraii Kendzhayev and ex-Procurator-General Nurullo Khuvaidullayev. (All of these people had to resign following the events in Dushanbe last May—IF [INTERFAX]). The statement circulated on behalf of the head of state says that this is a lie. "I have not me with these people. Neither have we held any consultations," wrote Nabiyev.

At the same time, the president expressed surprize that the democratic forces of Tajikistan resort to "brazen slanders". He noted that following lengthy talks a national reconciliation government was formed to restore peace in the republic. The democratic forces themselves announced that they would not oppose the government. Moreover, they stated that they would assist it. Nabiyev believes that if their "assistance" implies what was said above, the government rejects such assistance.

Also, he described as "light-mindedness" Russian TV's assertions that his trips to the Leninabad and Kulyab regions were unsuccessful. Such an attitude to information is rather dangerous in politics. One trip can hardly normalize the situation, he said. "As president of Tajikistan I have set for myself the task of studying proposals made by local governments and, guided by them, offering such a way of solving problems that would be accepted everywhere," he said.

Illegal Groups Reportedly Fight in Provinces

PM1506133192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Aleksandr Karpov report: "Tajikistan: First the Shooting Was Confined to the Capital; Now It Is Going On in the Rural Areas"]

[Text] Dushanbe—Chanting from a mourning rally could be heard for two days in the square outside the oblast soviet executive committee in Kurgan-Tyube—an oblast center in Tajikistan. The flowerbed directly opposite the building was turned into the burial place of a man who had been believed missing for around a month. Ibragim Dzhurabekov, a humble inhabitant of a village in Vakhshskiy Rayon, was buried in the city center. In mid-May he had returned home from Dushanbe, where he had participated in a long rally held by the political opposition to the official authorities in Tajikistan. He returned victorious, so he must have thought, since the opposition had achieved a great deal as a result of its spring demonstration. But literally within a day Dzhurabek had disappeared. The search that was launched produced nothing for days. And it was only three weeks later that his disfigured body was identified in the Kurgan-Tyube morgue.

As the speakers at the meeting maintained, this relatively young man was killed by a group of opponents of the opposition. The rally was held to protest against the powerlessness of the local authorities, which proved unable to help organize a funeral in the dead man's home village. The problem is that Vakhshskiy Rayon is controlled by armed formations openly refusing to accept the new government's jurisdiction.

The political confrontation between the opposition and supporters of the republic government (although this is now the former government), which took on a particularly acute form toward the end of April in Dushanbe, had abated by mid-May. Rally fever and armed clashes gradually subsided. But they did not end altogether; they moved to the outlying districts. Particularly to Kulyab and Kurgan-Tyube Oblasts. At a special session of the cabinet of ministers Sh. Khayrulloyev, deputy minister of internal affairs, stated that opposition supporters and opponents had created illegal armed formations there and were organizing their own posts and patrols. There have been instances of militia personnel being disarmed. For example, opponents of the opposition seized many pistols, automatic rifles, and smallbore rifles from the Vakhshskiy Rayon internal affairs department. The situation in Kulyab Oblast is being controlled by so-called national guards, whose leaders do not seek contact with the militia and do not intend to hand in their weapons.

Weapons are being used more often than not. At the end of last week alone 21 people died in Kulyab Oblast during fierce exchanges of fire meant to clarify political relations. Twelve members of the Islamic Revival Party's oblast organization were killed earlier.

Refugees have started flooding out of the oblasts and rayons that have become hot-spots in Tajikistan today. People are going to Dushanbe in particular. A large group of enforced re-settlers like this gathered 10 June in the square in front of the presidential residence. The head of the republic was sent a statement demanding that effective measures be taken to stabilize the situation.

Nabiyev's Handling of Regional Clashes Scored

LD1606085992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0749 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, June 16 TASS—The Tajik "Rastokhez" Popular Movement accused President Rakhman Nabiyev of inability to stop bloodshed going on in the Central Asian Republic.

"The blood of our Tajik brothers is being shed in a feud in the Kulyab and Kuran-Tyubin regions, while President Rakhman Nabiyev, instead of using his authority and protect human rights and law, continues to call on the bandit groups entrenched there to lay down arms", Chairman of the Popular Movement Salim Shukronayev told TASS on Tuesday [15 June].

Over 50 supporters of the opposition were killed by former presidential guardsmen in the Kulyab region in June. Refugees are fleeing the region and find shelter in mosques in Dushanbe or with their relatives in the Tajik capital.

"It is an unpresedented case in the Tajik history when the people who have elected the president have to look for protection not from the authorities, but from public organisations and the church", Shukronayev said.

Nabiyev has either to make a decisive move and disarm the bandits and bring criminal charges against them or he must resign, the Popular Movement leader said.

Nabiyev's Envoys Work in Regional Centers

LD1506224692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2035 GMT 15 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, June 15 TASS—Personal representatives of Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev began to work in the regional centres of the republic. The head of the republic took this decision after his one-day visit to Kulab, Kurgan-Tuba and Leninabad regions, where an acute socio-political situation developed, caused by the continuing confrontation between antagonistic groups.

The legal status of the president's emissaries is still to be defined, however, according to the presidential press-centre reports, their task is to make available to the president independent objective information on "hot spots" in the republic, to clarify to the population of these regions the essence of the most important documents, adopted by the head of the republic and the government of national reconciliation.

They will also oversee the implementation of the presidential decree urging illegal armed groups to turn over arms.

Draft of Volunteers to People's Guard Begins

OW1506212292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1953 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The military commissariats of Tajikistan started a draft of volunteers to the republican people's guard on the contractual basis Monday [15 June].

As chairman of the Tajik Defense Committee, Major-General Bakhrom Rakhmonov said, the people's guard is intended to protect the interests of the people, guarantee its peaceful labor, defend the constitutional system, the president and most important state facilities. Rakhmonov noted that the people's guard is the basis of Tajikistan's future armed forces.

Presidential Car Involved in Fatal Accident

LD1206203992 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] According to a report from the Ministry for Internal Affairs, on 10 June at around 2230, [words indistinct] of the president who was returning after (?work) had an automobile accident. (?Khodzhayev) [name indistinct], the driver [words indistinct] who was alone in his car, (?died) in the hospital. [sentence as heard] This is confirmed by the bodies of [word indistinct].

Turkmenistan

Developing Privatization Program Explained

OW1506173292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1642 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovsky, and Vladimir Shishlin from "Presidential Bulletin;" transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The privatization program developed in Turkmenistan envisages forming small businesses in trade, the service sector, and refining industries, a member of the Presidential Council Valeriy Otchertsov said at a press conference on the opening of the Turkish-American Business Association in Ashkhabad.

Otchertsov said the uniqueness of the privatization program in Turkmenistan is that up to 80% of the republic's economy falls into the gas, oil, and chemical industries, and rail, sea, and air transportation. These industries are part of the government sector in most market economy nations.

Otchertsov told journalists that President Niyazov suggested the possibility of "giving 200-300 million dollars in credits to individuals". This would give Turkmenistan "200-300 instant millionaires who could open businesses". The Turkmen government would guarantee the return of the credits which it can do as "we expect a hard currency profit of at least 800 million dollars from exports this year".

IF [INTERFAX] note: The TABA branch in Ashkhabad is the third in Central Asia; others are in Alma-Ata and Tashkent. Nurmukhammed Khanamov, chairman of the state committee on material-technical supply was elected head of the TABA office. In an interview with "IF" Khanamov said that the office will offer commercial-negotiation services between Turkmen and Turkish-American businessmen in all areas, particularly the oil and gas complex, construction, light and chemical industry, banking and public health.

Construction of Gas Line to India Considered

OW1506173992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1642 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovsky, and Vladimir Shishlin from "Presidential Bulletin;" transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A member of the Presidential Council Nazar Suyunov told "IF" [INTERFAX] that the Indian corporation "Birla" is developing the technical and economic basis for the construction of a Turkmen gas line to Tndia through Pakistan. Suyunov said Turkmenistan will supply over 15 billion cubic meters of gas a year through the new line. This version, he said, will allow the republic to export gas not only to Pakistan and India, but also to South East Asian nations, namely, Japan. However, this would require the construction of gas liquefaction plants in India.

Suyunov said that Birla needs "2-3 months" to develop its plan; the project may be opened up for bidding in the future.

Armenia

CIS Accused of Giving Arms to Azerbaijan

LD1606140192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1323 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow June 16 TASS—The Armenian leadership doubts the ability of the Commonwealth to solve the crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh, according to Armenian Ambassador in Moscow Feliks Mamikoyan.

A big amount of armaments was handed over to Azerbaijan which did not sign the Treaty on Collective Security and has not ratified the decision on joining the Commonwealth, Mamikoyan said on Tuesday [16 June]. Armenia which a CIS member has not received anything. Moreover, the Commonwealth members did not react in any way to the latest aggression of Azerbaijan against Nagorno-Karabakh, the ambassador added.

The latest developments in the enclave prove that Azerbaijan plans to solve the Karabakh problem by deporting the Armenian population from there, Mamikoyan said, briefing reporters on the latest combat activities in the enclave.

The Azeri offensive which began on June 12 uses the hardware of the 23 and 295 divisions of the Russian Army which was practically seized by Azerbaijan, he added. 200 armoured vehicles, including 110 T-72 tanks and a big number of infantry are engaged in the attack. Over four thousand rockets were fired during the last four days of combat at the front in the enclave, he disclosed.

15 Armenian villages were seized and burned down. Some 20 thousand people became homeless and were deported. The fate of three hundred of them is yet unknown, the ambassador said.

Azeri troops are being concentrated in Nakhichevan and the Zangelan region of Azerbaijan which means an offensive is being planned on southern regions of Armenia, Mamikoyan warned.

However, the latest reports from Nagorno-Karabakh said the Armenian self-defence units managed to stop the Azeri offensive.

Supreme Soviet Briefed on Nagorno-Karabakh

NC1506193692 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1650 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Report by Feliks Avakyan from the Armenian Supreme Soviet session held in Yerevan on 15 June—recorded]

[Text] [Avakyan] In opening the morning session of the parliament, Supreme Soviet Chairman Babken Ararktsyan proposed that the session immediately begin discussing the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh. The deputies first heard a report from Ashot Manucharyan, chief national security affairs adviser to the president.

[Manucharyan] [words indistinct] Yes, in fact all the villages in Shaumyanovskiy Rayon have been occupied by the Azerbaijani Army. [words indistinct] According to information received from the Shaumyanovskiy Rayon defense headquarters, first the population was evacuated and then the Armed Forces withdrew. [words indistinct] Therefore, according to our information, our losses could not have been substantial. We have information to the effect that (?some) self-defense detachments have taken cover in the forests surrounding Shaumyanov, and from there they are trying to launch operations. Most of the fighters and the population have arrived [words indistinct] in Talish. This is all the information we currently have about Shaumyanovskiy Rayon.

As for the rest of Nagorno-Karabakh: Heavy fighting is continuing near Prkavend. The fighting, which was interrupted for a few hours, resumed this morning. The fighting also is continuing around Askeran [passage indistinct]. The Armenian self-defense forces occupied the hills near Nakhichevanik and are trying to retake the village. A large amount of Azerbaijani armored cars arrived there, however, and now clashes for positions are continuing.

The attack on Gadrutskiy Rayon was repulsed, but a large concentration of Azerbaijani forces is being observed near Fizuli. So far they have not launched any operations.

A number of settlements are being shelled in Askeranskiy and Gadrutskiy Rayons. In Askeranskiy Rayon, the Armenian self-defense forces reached the border between Askeranskiy and Agdamskiy Rayons and are waiting there. At present, non-intensive clashes for positions are taking place.

[Avakyan] The parliament also heard a report from Armenian Defense Minister Vazgen Sargsyan.

[Sargsyan] This Azerbaijani attack was not entirely a surprise. There has been talk of such an attack since the capture of Shusha and the opening of the Lachin road. [words indistinct] A very bad thing has taken place: Shaumyanovskiy Rayon has been effectively occupied by the enemy. [passage indistinct] Preparations were going on in Shaumyanovskiy Rayon to retake Getashen village. We would have been able to retake Getashen in three or four days. We had sharply increased our forces and military potential there and we were getting ready to occupy Getashen. But Friday came sooner than Saturday. Let me explain why. The Azerbaijani side managed to concentrate large forces within a single night by bringing in forces from Gyandzha. Such forces were not poised against Shaumyanovskiy a few days ago. Also, a strange thing happened. The anti-tank mines were removed at the approaches of Erkech and Buzlukh in preparation for our advance so they would not obstruct our move towards Getashen. Within a single night, nearly 100 armored cars and 50 T-72 tanks were brought there from the division in Gyandzha. These figures are not exaggerated. [passage indistinct] An entire division of mercenaries were at work in Shaumyanovskiy. Such rapid movement was impossible without the help of a division. [words indistinct] No one could have imagined that the entire division would come and fight on the side of the Azerbaijanis. Perhaps I should have predicted such an eventuality, but I did not imagine such a thing [words indistinct].

There was a concentration of Azerbaijani armory prior to these events, but the danger now is that these armored cars may be used and are being used by mercenaries in the other battle areas [words indistinct].

A very bad thing has happened. But, and this might be misunderstood, a battle is not won with the (?capture and loss) of a town or village.

Let us not commit tragic mistakes and start bickering among ourselves at this stage of a major [words indistinct]. The war is going on in Mardakertskiy and Askeranskiy Rayons and in other places, as well as in Armenia's border regions, especially in Noyemberyanskiy and Idzhevanskiy Rayons. [passage indistinct] Here, too, there are huge concentrations of Azerbaijani forces. The first thing to do would be to dispatch the appropriate personnel to operate the hardware. [words indistinct]

As for the human losses, I myself do not have precise reports about them. Reports that the self-defense forces have left the battleground and abandoned the people are not correct [words indistinct]. The villages were evacuated, and losses occurred in some places where the attack was (?sudden) and we have no clear information about the losses.

No one is trying to escape responsibility, and I [words indistinct] am responsible for every [words indistinct]. Those who use defense matters for political purposes are also to be held responsible [passage indistinct].

[Avakyan] Manucharyan and Sargsyan replied to questions from the deputies. Almost all the deputies noted that the military successes are always temporary if they are not consolidated with political measures. The deputies favored a political examination of the question. Deputies differed on when to start the examination. The Armenian Pan-National Movement suggested that the debate on the issue start today. The Armenian Revolutionary Federation proposed that the debate start after certain preparatory work. The proposal put forward by Democratic Liberal Party representative Samuel Ter-Gulanyan was endorsed: To start the debate today and then to hear the views of the Armenian and Nagorno-Karabakh Republic leaders in order to continue the debate. Today's session, therefore, was entirely devoted to the preliminary examination of the issue. The first phase of the debate was summed up by Babken Ararktsyan.

[Ararktsyan] [passage indistinct] I want to put forward concrete proposals: I do not think we can continue the Supreme Soviet deliberations under the present conditions. We have an agenda, but in this tense atmosphere—that is, the existing tense political situation—the deputies will not be able to calmly examine the laws and articles. Therefore, I propose to join the Armenian Pan-National Movement and adjourn the session. The Presidium should instead hold expanded sessions with the representatives of the all the parties to decided the date and agenda for resuming the deliberations [words indistinct].

[Avakyan] The parliament decided to adjourn its work and instructed the Supreme Soviet Presidium to undertake preparatory work to reconvene the session to debate the second phase of the matter under discussion. With that, the Supreme Soviet ended today's session.

Statement on Renaming Villages

NC1506184492 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Statement issued by the Supreme Soviet press center]

[Text] The Supreme Soviet Presidium met on 12 June under Supreme Soviet Chairman Babken Ararktsyan and discussed the question of renaming some settlements in Armenia.

Ara Saakyan, chairman of the commission on renaming places and first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, presented the proposals submitted by local soviets and the conclusions of the commission on renaming places.

On the basis of these proposals and conclusions, the Supreme Soviet Presidium decided to rename Magaradzhuk village in Amasiyskiy Rayon as Getashen; Sasunik village in Ashtarakskiy Rayon as Nor Sasunik, and the original village which is now being restored as Sasunik; Mravyan village in Aparanskiy Rayon as Yegipatrush; Maldash village in Gorisskiy Rayon as Kashuni; Shorbulakh village under the jurisdiction of Yerevan's Erebuni Rayon Soviet administration as Mushakan; and Akhundov village in Razdanskiy Rayon as Pyunik.

It was decided to give further consideration to proposals on renaming Oktemberyan city as Armavir and Kirovakan city as Vanadzor during the joint session of the Supreme Soviet Presidium and the commission on renaming places.

'Hot Debates' Reported

OW1506202392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1953 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Armenian Parliament suspended its session Monday [15 June] due to worsening conditions in Nagorno-Karabakh, in particular, the seizure of the

Shaumyanovskiy region by Azeri forces. The Presidium of the Parliament will work until the regular session is converned.

This decision was made only after hot debates. A Deputy from the Armenian National Movement Ahsot Bleyan said that Armenians have taken a backbreaking task upon themselves in trying to keep Nagorno-Karabakh. He said that the main task now is not to allow the destruction of Karabakh, and the best way to do this is to preserve the territorial wholeness of Azerbaijan while preserving the Karabakh autonomy within it with guaranteed rignts. This point of view drew sharp criticism from most of the deputies.

Law on Privatization, Denationalization Adopted

NC1306162392 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1400 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] The law on privatizing and denationalizing state enterprises adopted by the Armenian Supreme Soviet at first reading was submitted for nationwide discussion today.

In line with the bill submitted by the government, an amount not less then 30 percent of the value of the privatized property will be equally distributed among the republic's population. As such, all citizens who are over 16 could receive ownership certificates.

More on Government Protest Against Azerbaijan

LD1506160992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1502 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Yerevan June 15 TASS—The latest activities of the Azerbaijani leadership have disavowed its political declarations and torpedoed the peaceful settlement of the dispute in Nagorno- Karabakh under the aegis of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), the Armenian Government said in a statement issued on Monday [15 June].

"The recent counteroffensive of Azerbaijani forces in the Shaumyan, Askeran and Martuni districts of Nagorno-Karabakh have grown into an aggression throughout the republic. About 100 tanks, armoured vehicles, helicopters and Su-25 bomber-fighters, missile launchers and other artillery units are being used in the war against the civilian population. Casualties and damage are growing as is the confrontation and the threat of expansion of the conflict and further destabilisation of the situation in the region," the statement said.

"Grossly violating the obligations of a U.N. and CSCE member, Azerbaijan has begun large-scale combat activities against Armenia. A fierce attack was launched against the Noyemberyan, Idzhevan and Taush districts of Armenia, causing mass casualties among the civilian population," the document said.

The Armenian Government has urged the world community to "take effective measures to prevent new combat activities by Azerbaijan aimed at physical extermination of the population of Nagorno- Karabakh and at involving Armenia in the large-scale armed conflict."

Opposition Urges Nagorno-Karabakh's Defense

LD1506173392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Video report by correspondent Sorokina from Yerevan; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] In Yerevan today, the rally organized yesterday by Dashnaktsutyun, one of the leading opposition parties, continues. The ralliers are asking the government to take measures in defense of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Nagorno-Karabakh, Border Area Clashes Reported

NC1506201992 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] ARTSAKH NEWS AGENCY reports that the Azerbaijani Army's large-scale offensive is continuing in a number of directions. But that Army is an Azerbaijani army in name only. In fact, it is basically composed of servicemen from Slavic nations. Intercepted radio transmissions indicate that Azerbaijani tanks are being driven by mercenaries from the former CIS 4th Army.

The Azerbaijani armed formations, which have nearly 150 armored vehicles, primarily tanks, are at present controlling 18 Armenian villages which they have occupied.

New reinforcements—including tanks, artillery, and troops—are constantly arriving from Agdam, Fizuli and Kubatly.

Scores of Armenians have been killed in the destroyed and occupied villages. There are more than 150 injured. The enemy also suffered substantial losses.

According to the latest reports, after dropping poisonous chemical bombs on the villages in Shaumyanovskiy Rayon on 13 June, the Azerbaijani armed units, primarily tank units, managed to overrun all 12 Armenian villages in Shaumyanovskiy.

The Armenian self-defense forces managed to check the enemy's advance towards Askeran.

The battles are now continuing near Nakhichevanik, Prdzhemal, Aranzemin, Akhbulak and Dahraz villages, which were occupied on 12 June. (Sixteen) [words indistinct] Armenians died in those battles. The enemy suffered 200 fatalities.

The Armenian detachments managed to stop the Azerbaijani tank advance deep into Mardakertskiy Rayon. The battles are continuing near Srkhavent village. Thirty (?tanks) are rushing from Agdam to help the Azerbaijani troops. Chayli and Talish villages are being fiercely shelled with Grad rockets since this morning. The refugees from Shaumyanovskiy are gathered in these two villages. The shelling caused human losses and destruction.

Attacking from Fizulinskiy Rayon, the Azerbaijanis used tanks to break into Gadrut on the night of 14-15 June. The attack was stopped. Both sides have suffered losses.

The situation also is tense in Armenia's border regions. It is reported from Noyemberyanskiy Rayon that battles were waged all throughout yesterday in the border villages, particularly in the Voskevan area. Our self-defense forces have silenced the Azerbaijani firing positions in the Azerbaijani Nerkin-Askepar and (Vorshiayrum) villages. One freight vehicle and an armored car were seized. Three were killed and 10 injured. A relative calm prevailed this morning.

The tension is not subsiding along Idzhevanskiy Rayon's border. The Azerbaijanis are shelling the area with cannons and Grad rockets. The shelling caused destruction. One person was killed and four were seriously injured. The exchange of fire was continuing this morning.

Khndzoresk and [name indistinct] villages in Vaykskiy Rayon have been shelled with Grad rockets and tanks since 14 June. Three residents have died and four have been injured.

Kapan city and the border villages were shelled with Grad rockets and howitzers on the night of 14-15 June.

A concentration of 70 armored cars is being observed in Azerbaijan's Zangelanskiy Rayon.

Turkish Role Reported

LD1506173692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 15 Jun 92

[ASSA-IRADA report]

[Text] A real war is being waged on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. According to reports from Pro-Armenia, a Russian Armenian information center, bloody clashes continued today in Shaumyanovskiy Rayon. After being attacked by 100 armored vehicles, Armenian units had to leave the rayon center, Shaumyanovsk, and retreat into the mountain area of Galistan. The Azerbaijan Army has captured all 12 Armenian villages of this rayon. Dozens of civilians have been killed. The fate of hundreds of elderly and children who did not manage to escape is still not known.

The situation is complicated by the fact that the rayon is situated deep inside Azerbaijani territory, is cut off from the rest of Nagorno-Karabakh, and is the furthest from Armenia.

Intelligence from the headquarters of the self-defense forces, the Pro-Armenia information center reports, confirms that the latest attack by Azerbaijan was prepared with the help of Turkish military experts.

ASSA-IRADA agency reports that today Armenian armed formations are carrying out fierce attacks against Azerbaijan. The presidential press service reports that the flow of refugees has increased. Tens of thousands of homeless people are converging on Baku.

Impact of Gas Blockade Against Georgia Noted

PM1506151592 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 10 Jun 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report by A. Abramyan and M. Movsesyan, identified by caption, from Yerevan[

[Text] [Abramyan over video of gas pipeline control room] Not a single cubic meter of gas has reached Armenia since 24 May. For the republic, which has virtually no fuel resources of its own, this means a paralyzed industry, and many privations for both urban and rural dwellers.

It has become known that since yesterday gas deliveries to Georgia have resumed via Azerbaijan. Thus, North Ossetia, blocking the delivery of gas to Georgia, is effectively punishing only Armenia. There is not enough gasoline or heating oil in the republic, nor food which should be coming in by rail.

However, despite all this, substantial quantities of the scarce goods are being dispatched via the Lachin corridor to Karabakh whose population was subject to a total blockade for four years. [video shows pipeline control room and other installations, deserted railroad, trucks on road]

Nakhichevan's Aliyev on Islamic Relations

NC1306203492 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] Geydar Aliyev, chairman of the Nakhichevan Supreme Majlis, has accused Russia of supporting Armenia in its conflict with Azerbaijan.

In an interview on Iranian television, Aliyev declared that since the collapse of the Soviet Union the people of Nakhichevan consider themselves a part of the Islamic world. He said: Though there are efforts to divert us from that path, we are full of resolve to develop our ties with the Islamic commonwealth. We will strive to maintain very friendly and close relations with Iran.

Replying to correspondent's question, Aliyev declared: It is not possible to hide my past role as one of the leaders of the Communist Party. Throughout my life, however, I exerted efforts to bring about the collapse of that party and restore Azerbaijan's independence.

Nakhichevan Talks on Railway Blockades Fail

NC1306204392 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] Deputy Energy Minister Nelson Akobyan reported that the talks held on 11 June in Nakhichevan on lifting the railway blockades produced no result. The Azerbaijanis argue that the impossible freight transportation situation is a result of the fighting and they allege that the security of the trains and crews is not guaranteed.

The deputy minister noted that although Armenia has an agreement with Iran to import 500,000 tonnes of fuel oil per year, it is not possible to obtain it.

Directorate Reports Blockade's Budget Toll

LD1406032292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0230 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Text] The Armenian Statistical Directorate reports that the republic's output continued to fall during the first six months of the year. Armenia lost 25 billion rubles during January-May this year because of the transport blockade and the closure of the gas pipeline, policies which are being consistently implemented by Azerbaijan.

State Budget Deficit To Reach R20 Billion

LD1206225192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] The state budget deficit will amount to about 20 billion rubles [R] in Armenia by the end of the year. The republic's internal debt has already reached 11 billion rubles. According to the DELOVOY MIR [BUSINESS WORLD] weekly which is published in Yerevan, the next spiral of inflation will happen in Armenia in September or October.

Seismic Cooperation Agreement Signed With Iran

NC1506175792 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Yerevan, 15 Jun (ARMENPRES)—An Iranian delegation headed by Dr. Abdulrahim Dzhavaherian, director of the Geophysics Institute at Tehran University, is visiting Armenia. The Iranian seismologists' visit is a follow up to the agreement the two countries' presidents signed in Tehran in May.

The Iranian delegation held consultations on the work conducted by the Iranian and Armenian earthquake forecasting services. In Yerevan the guests examined the activities of the National Service for Earthquake Protection, which in the opinion of the Iranian delegation soon could become a renowned specialized center for earthquake studies.

Based on the results of the visit, a cooperation protocol was signed between Armenia's National Service for Earthquake Protection and the Geophysics Institute of Tehran University. The agreement envisages the expansion of ties and assistance to Iran to expand its seismic research.

Azerbaijan

Acting President Issues Order on Power Transfer

NC1506184392 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Isa Kamberov, acting president and chairman of the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet, has issued an order regarding preparations for President-elect Ebulfez Elchibey to assume power. Kamberov's order is as follows:

A committee will be established to prepare for Ebulfez Elchibey, who has been declared president by the Central Election Committee in accordance with the official results of the presidential election, to assume power. The committee will be made up as follows:

1. Penah Guseynov, state secretary—chairman
2. Ehtiyar Dzhelilov, presidential adviser on legal affairs—member
3. Abbas Orudzhev, [words indistinct]—member
4. Iskender Khamidov, minister of internal affairs—member
5. Dzhangir Mamedov, deputy chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet—member

[Signed] Isa Kamberov, acting president and chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet

Communications Minister Relieved of Duties

NC1506185092 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] In accordance with a decree issued by Isa Kamberov, acting president and chairman of the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet, Shamil Musayev has been relieved of his duties as minister of communications because he has been appointed to another post.

Kodzhaman-zade Appointed

NC1506184792 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Isa Kamberov, acting president and chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, has decreed the following:

In accordance with a decree issued by the president, Abdul Kodzhaman-zade has been appointed the republic's minister of communications. This decree will be submitted to the Azerbaijan National Assembly [Milli Majlis] for consideration.

[Signed] Isa Kamberov, acting president and chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet
Baku city, 11 Jun 1992

Kamberov Holds News Conference on Russian Ties

OW1606141992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1251 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Chairman of Azerbaijan's parliament Isa Kamberov thinks that should any Caucasian republic draw closer to Russia, that would "somewhat" tip the balance of forces in the region. To a question of IF [INTERFAX] at last Monday's press-conference in Baku on prospects of Azeri-Russian relations, I. Kamberov replied that parallel to mutually beneficial links with Moscow, Baku intends to step up its active role in the world community, the CSCE organisations, and the North-Atlantic Council.

On the Armenian-Azeri conflict I. Kamberov noted the imminent threat of partitioning that in his opinion has loomed over Azerbaijan lately. He said the republic's leadership can't tolerate further ousting Azeri population from the borders with Nagorno-Karabakh and will take certain preventive measures.

Foreign Minister To Participate in ICO Meeting

LD1606091492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2115 GMT 15 Jun 92

[By AZERINFORM-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Baku, 16 Jun—Azerbaijan has confirmed that it will participate in the conference of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) which is to take place in Istanbul on 17-18 June. An AZERINFORM correspondent was informed at the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry press center that the discussion on the banks of the Bosphorus, in which the republic's foreign minister Tofik Gasymov will be participating, will concern the situation which has now developed in Bosnia-Hercegovina, the Muslim republic of the former Yugoslavia.

It is expected that in connection with the latest events in Nagorno-Karabakh and in the border area with Armenia the question of the situation in that explosive region will also be included on the conference agenda.

Decision on Military Draft Law Apopted

NC1206193692 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] The National Assembly convened on 10 June. The information provided by Hikmet Gadzhyzade, Azerbaijan's plenipotentiary representative in Moscow, on the progress of the talks between a high-level Azerbaijani delegation and Russian leaders was heard during the session. Isa Kamberov, acting president and chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, chaired the meeting.

Gadzhyzade briefed the deputies on the problems taken up by the Azerbaijani delegation in Moscow. According to Gadzhyzade, particular attention was focused on the situation in and around Yukhari Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabakh], the future of the former Soviet multi-billion [currency not specified] military installations and air defense forces in our republic, the lifting of visa requirements with Turkey and Iran, and other matters.

The deputies also enacted a law on the changes to be made to the republic's law [constitution] regarding [word indistinct]. After hearing a report by Mamedov [not further identified] on the government's intention to raise the price of a liter of gasoline by eight rubles, the deputies adopted a decision for the implementation of [words indistinct] for private vehicle owners.

The deputies approved the National Assembly decision on the military draft law and the problems encountered in attracting conscripts from the former Soviet Armed Forces to serve in the republic's National Army. The deputies [words indistinct].

People's Front Issues Appeal on 'Aggression'

LD1506174292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1602 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Baku, 15 Jun (AZERINFORM-TASS)—Today an appeal to all democratic states was issued by the executive committee of the People's Front and circulated for the media via AZERINFORM. The appeal calls for Azerbaijan's democracy to be protected and for measures to be taken against Armenian aggression.

"The results of the first democratic presidential elections do not suit many forces outside our state," the appeal says. "The first president of the republic has hardly started to perform his duties, but attempts are being made to destabilize the situation in the state through military intervention."

Incidentally, the statement stresses, Armenia has launched a propaganda campaign to mislead the world. At the same time, the area under occupation is expanding. The executive committee of the Azerbaijani People's Front draws the conclusion that all this is undertaken by certain forces in order to stop democratic processes in Azerbaijan.

Further Reportage on Nagorno-Karabakh Clashes

LD1506153292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1421 GMT 15 Jun 92

[By AZERINFORM—TASS]

[Text] Baku June 15 TASS—Azerbaijani forces liberated the villages of Farakhly and Gyzylgadzhily in the Kazakh region in a fierce fighting on Monday [15 June]. The villages had been seized on Sunday [14 June] by Armenian forces which had intruded into the Azerbaijani territory, according to a spokesman of the head of executive authorities of the Kazakh region of Azerbaijan.

Armenians continue to shell from rocket launchers a number of Azeri settlements bordering on Armenia. Ten people were killed, according to preliminary estimates, in the village of Chaily last night. Dozens of local residents were wounded and serious damage inflicted.

Numerous refugees are fleeing to the city of Kazakh, the administrative centre of the region, and other nearby towns.

Armenian Villages Occupied

LD1506211992 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Video report by A. Abramyan; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] By this morning, all 12 Armenian villages of Shaumyan Rayon of Nagorno-Karabakh were occupied by Azerbaijani military formations. In this sector the Azerbaijanis possess a greater superiority in armor. The fact is, Azerbaijan, as opposed to Armenia, had CIS equipment handed over to it—approximately equal to two motorized infantry divisions. Moreover, the CIS Armed Forces personnel that were trained on armored equipment have not been withdrawn from Gyandzha. It is these mercenaries who occupied Shaumyan Rayon, where one tank of the Karabakh Self-Defense Forces was confronted by 50 enemy tanks.

In Askeran and Mardakert Rayons, the Azerbaijani Army's advance has been halted. Fighting is going on for the Armenian population centers captured by the Azerbaijanis on 12 June. Since this morning, the villages of Talish and Chaily, where a considerable number of refugees from Shaumyan Rayon are located, have been under fire from Grad launchers. [video shows shelling in countryside, tank, damaged buildings, men in trenches]

Fighting Continues

OW1506202992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1953 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the Azeri Defense Ministry, on Monday [15 June] Armenian military units backed by tanks launched an attack against the Azeri regional center Agdam. At least 200 "Grad" system projectiles were fired on Agdam and another regional center, Fizuli. The Defense Ministry claims that Armenians used chemical projectiles against these two cities. 9 people were killed and nearly 30 wounded in the Agdam region June 15.

The Azeri Defense Ministry says last night 13 T-72 tanks, 8 armored infantry vehicles, 6 armored personnel carriers and 7 "Grad" rocket systems were delivered to Karabakh from Armenia througzh "the Lachinsky corridor".

In the Geranboyskiy (former Shaumyanovskiy) region of Azerbaijan Armenian firing positions in the villages of Buzlukh, Erkech and Manashid were neutralized. 3 "Grad" systems and 8 armored vehicles were destroyed. One Armenian helicopter was shot down. Armenians suffered great casualties.

The defense forces of Nagorno-Karabakh report that Armenian formations counter-attacked positions of the Azeri army in the Mardakert region of Karabakh. As a result the village of Kichan was freed, and in the region of the village of Syrkhavend a group of nearly 300 Azeris is completely surrounded.

In the Askeran region Armenians are attempting to liberate the village of Nakhichevanik taken yesterday.

A more serious situation is unfolding in the Shaumyanovsky region of Nagorno-Karabakh. Virtually all villages in the region have been taken by Azeris. Many civilians were killed.

Baku Radio Reports Chemical Shells

NC1506194092 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1900 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] According to the presidential press office, the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry has disclosed that several of the shells fired on Fizuli city by the Armenian aggressors on 8 June have been examined and were found to contain toxic chemical substances.

Army Commander Denies CIS, Russian Role

LD1506230192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 15 Jun 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Armenia is prepared for resolute action to protect the people of Nagorno-Karabakh. This was stated by Levon Ter-Petrosyan at the UN disarmament conference.

In the evening edition of "Vesti", our correspondents on the Armenian side of the conflict reported that Azerbaijani armed formations have obtained the military hardware of an armored rifle division located in Shaumyanovskiy Rayon. General Popov, commander of the 4th Army, which is in Azerbaijan, has denied this. He also denied that mercenaries from among the servicemen have taken part in combat actions. The press center of the Russian Defense Ministry told us that although Russian servicemen are close to the combat action, they are not interfering in events.

Settlements in Nakhichevan Under Attack

LD1206152692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1456 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Baku, Jun 12 (AZERINFORM-TASS)—The settlement of Sadarak in the Nakhichevan autonomous republic, part of Azerbaijan, has been under near-continuous artillery bombardment since 0600. According to information obtained by AZERINFORM from the republican Defense Ministry, over 70 rounds have been fired at the settlement in just two days. There has been major destruction. Settlements in a number of rayons have come under fire during the past 24 hours. The number of casualties is being determined.

Aliyev Remarks on Attacks

TA1306142392 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1400 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] [place-name indistinct] Jun 13 (A.A)—Armenians have resumed shelling the Azeri town of Sadarak in the enclave of Nakhichevan, the enclave's president Geydar Aliyev said on Saturday [13 June].

Aliyev told AA that during the two-hour attack of Armenians at about 21.00 on Thursday [11 June] with artillery and missiles, two Azeri militia were seriously wounded in Sadarak, which is close to the Turkish border.

He added that Armenian attacks to the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan were continuing.

The authorities in Nakhichevan accused Armenians of capturing border villages and shelling Sadarak in mid-May.

Armenia and Azerbaijan have been fighting for years over the separate Azeri enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, where most of the inhabitants are Armenian.

Aliyev told AA that Nakhichevan, which is wedged between Turkey, Armenia and Iran, faced serious food shortages.

He said that four truckloads of flour sent by the Turkish Red Crescent had already been distributed and that further supplies would not reach the beleaguered enclave until after the four-day Bayram holiday, which ends on Sunday [14 June].

"They have ruined our Bayram," Aliyev added.

Bayram is the Muslim feast, which coincides with the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

Aliyev Comments on Armenian President's Goals

NC1606103792 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 6 Jun 92 p 13

[Text] Izmir—Geydar Aliyev, chairman of the Nakhichevan Supreme Assembly, has said that he does not believe the goodwill President Ter-Petrosyan expressed in his letter to Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel. Noting that Demirel will allow him to read Ter-Petrosyan's letter, Aliyev answered a question as to "whether or not he would agree to meet with the members of the Armenian delegation, who are in the same hotel as he is in Izmir." He said: "I would meet them if they agreed to abandon their aggressive intentions."

Aliyev described Armenia's attacks as systematic and said that they were carried out in accordance with Ter-Petrosyan's instructions. He asserted: "Ter-Petrosyan is definitely in control of the situation. He informed me that he personally ordered the Armenian units to attack. In view of this, he can halt the attacks whenever he wants to. In fact, it would be better if he did."

Nakhichevan Asks For Turkey's Help in Language

TA1306112992 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 0430 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] Work is under way in Nakhichevan to adopt the Latin alphabet. The steps in that direction began following a Nakhichevan Council of Ministers decision made last December. Priority is being given to teachers' courses. Pupils in first grade will start to learn the Latin alphabet during the next school year.

The Nakhichevan education minister said that they do not have enough text books printed in Latin letters and do not have a printing house that prints Latin letters. That, he said, makes the transition to the Latin alphabet difficult. He said that Nakhichevan needs Turkey's help in that respect.

Nakhichevan Food Convoy Arrives via Iran

LD1306040592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] A convoy of vehicles carrying apricots from the famous (Ardubatskiye) orchards has arrived in the Azerbaijani capital from blockaded Nakhichevan. The drivers had to cross the border into Iran twice to get the fruit to its destination. This border violation was agreed at government level in accordance with the treaty Iran and Azerbaijan signed on mutual cooperation.

Kurds To Establish 'Independent' State

JN1306065392 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0610 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] It was learned today that approximately 60 Kurdish representatives from the former Soviet Union met this week in Lachin in Azerbaijan. They decided to establish an independent Kurdish state in the buffer zone between the Republic of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, which has an Armenian majority but is affiliated with Azerbaijan. This area, called Red Kurdistan, enjoyed a semblance of independence in the 1920's.

The Armenian presidency has confirmed the meeting of the Kurdish delegates in Lachin, which was seized by the Armenians at the end of last May. This allowed the Armenians to open the road between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Sends Greetings to Yeltsin

LD1206160192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1035 GMT 12 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 12 Jun—Today Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian State Council, sent most cordial greetings to Russian President Boris Yeltsin in connection with the anniversary of adopting the declaration on the state sovereignty of Russia. This date is of importance not just to the Russian people, but also to other republics which have lived alongside Russia for a long time and have shared with it the burdens and joys of our joint past, the letter says. Georgia and Russia are connected by centuries-old traditions of friendship and cooperation and we see in it a guarantee of a bright future for our relations, the congratulatory letter stresses.

Shevardnadze Interviewed on Russian Relations

LD1606104492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1011 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow, June 16 ITAR-TASS—"Georgia has always been Russia's natural ally. Both states are interested in normal civilized relations. Russia needs Georgia as much as Georgia needs Russia," Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze said in an interview published by the TRUD newspaper today.

"It is not normal that Georgia and Russia have no diplomatic relations. There are half a million Russians in the republic. It is not in their interests that we have no diplomatic relations," he said.

Touching on the situation in South Ossetia, Eduard Shevardnadze said that the armed conflict between Georgians and Ossetians was "instigated by extremist politicians on both sides".

"Somebody needed confrontation between the two peoples....but now we are clear on the main thing: We need a policy of peaceful settlement, negotiations, dialogue," the Georgian leader stressed.

He described talks about the unification of Northern Ossetia (which is part of the Russian Federation) and South Ossetia (which is part of Georgia) as acts of provocation. "Alas, there are forces that encourage this extremism also in Russia," Shevardnadze said.

As concerns the overall situation in the Commonwealth of Independent States, Shevardnadze noted that the trouble consisted in the fact that the Commonwealth lacked culture of interstate communication, a culture of settling conflicts.

The former Soviet republics that have just won independence are obsessed with "the desire to assert themselves, but not through dialogue—through undisguised diktat", Shevardnadze said.

"It is a disease. But it will pass. Forceful methods are now dominating. As soon as a conflict situation arises, the first thing that comes into many heads is to take up arms. This mentality should be overcome," Shevardnadze said.

Khasbulatov Accused of Inciting Extremists

LD1506170892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 15 Jun 92

["Text" of statement by Georgian State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze in reply to a statement by Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, on 15 June; place not given]

[Text] A terrorist act was committed in a densely populated area of Tbilisi two days ago. Peaceful citizens, including women and children, died. The same day blood was shed as a result of a clash between guardsmen and servicemen of a tank regiment in the town of Gori. All that bloodshed, discord, and chaos instigated by the adversaries of democratic Georgia tax our patience to the limit. We are making incredible efforts to put out the flame of the senseless conflict in the region of Tskhinvali.

In this context, Khasbulatov's statement, which has been broadly addressed to Russia's citizens, is like yet another match put to a powder keg. The author of the statement cannot be unaware of the fact that the events which are currently taking place in Georgia are rooted in the policies of the previous regime. Our attempts to put an end to that legacy needs complete support.

Instead, the head of the Russian parliament has made a statement which I regard as a populist and demagogic one aimed at inciting certain circles which are noticeably becoming active right now. R.I. Khasbulatov's statement is an insult to the sovereign and independent Republic of Georgia, toward which neither Russia nor other republics can have territorial claims. Khasbulatov's statement plays into the hands of extremists, regardless of their national guise. He pays tribute to those forces which form the so-called legions and detachments of volunteers to be sent to zones of conflict, or which dispatch delegations of deputies over there without taking into account the principles of national and state jurisdiction, state sovereignty, and the inviolability of territories. Such statements can only thwart the negotiating process in which we have invited Russia to take part, something supported by President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin.

At its routine sitting tomorrow, the State Council of the Republic of Georgia will examine Khasbulatov's statement and will give a substantial reply.

[Signed] Eduard Shevardnadze, 15 June 1992.

Gori National Guardsmen Attack Recounted

LD1506214692 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1708 GMT 15 Jun 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Gori—According to the military, the persons who attacked the tank unit in Gori on the night of June 13, were members of the Georgian National Guard, including the Tbilisi garrison.

First the militants, dressed in National Guard uniform and civil clothes (some 200 all told) demanded that the command of the tank unit give them ammunition and hardware. When their demand was turned down, they stormed the guards' quarters, headquarters and depots. Russian troops had to use helicopters to repel the attack. Two servicemen of the tank unit were killed and three wounded in the night attack, as well as a woman and a 6-year-old child. The major's 8-year-old daughter died of wounds on June 14. Reports of losses among the attackers vary from 14 to 30.

The military say the time of the attack and the way it was organized show that it was well planned. Most of the officers were at home, while the servicemen were off, except for the guard on duty. The seizure of the guards' quarters was carried out with great precision and trucks were ready to pick up the ammunition. The attackers did not take into account, however, that apart from the guards, 30 paratroopers arrived to protect the unit. They were armed, and it was they who met the attackers. Officers began arriving from the nearby residential area, joined the fighting and took the T-72 tanks away. After repelling the attack, the tank drivers smashed the cars and trucks the guardsmen came on. One of the cars was carrying 10 cartons of champagne. However, the assistant commander of the Trans-Caucuses military region General Sufian Beppayev admitted that damage was done to the city, many cars were damaged, civilians were wounded. The general himself and Georgian Defence Minister Tengiz Kitovani barely avoided being killed in their car as two soldiers opened fire on the town outskirts. To attract their attention the general threw his cap out of the car, and then came out himself. The soldiers of the tank unit explained that fire was opened at them from passing cars.

At present the situation in Gori is held under control by the local police, which is guarding the living quarters of the unit. On June 14, a crowd, consisting mainly of women and children in three occasions approached the garrison demanding punishment for the command. The police dispersed the crowd. The command of the military region and the republic's authorities are doing all they can to end the conflict. On June 14, 19 militants, who had been taken prisoner, were set free, after which the Georgians released Colonel Dmitriy Maximenko, whom they had taken hostage.

On the night of June 14, Georgian Secretary of State Eduard Shevardnadze arrived in Gori. He visited the hospital where the wounded guardsmen and servicemen of the tank unit were taken. Then he met with the command of the unit and discussed issues related to the complete stabilization of the situation in Gori.

According to preliminary reports, the initiator of the attack was an officer of the national guard, who acted without any command from the republic's Defence Ministry. In the attack he was injured in the head.

Contradicting Reports Noted

LD1506201192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1846 GMT 15 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, June 15 TASS—Although more than two days have passed since the attack on a tank regiment of Russian Federation armed forces in the city of Gori, the detailed account of the incident still remains unknown to the public at large. Official sources in the Transcaucasian Military District headquarters, as well as in the republic's leadership, dole out scanty information regarding the incident, which is giving rise to contradictory versions and rumours.

According to one such story, an attack aimed at capturing regimental tanks in Gori was being planned in collusion with the servicemen, but uninformed Gori officers and soldiers opened fire to protect the military hardware. According to another version, the attackers took one of the generals hostage and with his assistance made an attempt to take tanks from the territory of the unit. In the opinion of many, the official casualty figures are considerably diminished.

However nobody denied the fact that the attack was carried out by the National Guards of Georgia and both sides have suffered casualties. According to the latest verified reports, an eight-year old daughter of a Russian major died of a serious wound. Doctors described the condition of the former deputy defence minister and one of the commanders of the National Guards, Vissarion Kutateladze, who was wounded during the crossfiring in Gori, as critical.

The State Council of Georgia is expected to give a political evaluation of the incident tomorrow. The chairman of the State Council, Eduard Shevardnadze, on Sunday [14 June] during his meeting with the National Guards, Russian servicemen and the public expressed regret over the incident and called on all to help normalize the situation.

The situation in Gori is said to be calm, according to reports received on Monday [15 June].

Shevardnadze: Military Favors Peaceful Solution

LD1606102192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Video report by correspondent N. Gongadze from Georgia including recorded comments by Georgian State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] [Gongadze]—Old people find it particularly difficult to get used to the short and impassive word "refugee." There are currently in excess of 20,000 refugees, including adults, children, Georgians, Armenians, Jews, and Russians who were driven away from Tskhinvali and who are for the third year running finding refuge in hotels and holiday homes of the town of Gori. Yesterday, Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze visited a local hospital. [passage omitted]

[Shevardnadze] The commanders I have met spoke in favor of a peaceful, political solution to the conflict. They are ready to establish contact with commanders of the Ossetian side. They are in favor of maintaining normal relations with subunits of Russian troops. This is the general mood.

'Warning' Protest Outside Military Headquarters

AU1606080992 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0200 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Yesterday, a protest action was organized on the initiative of the "Charter-91" political organization outside the headquarters of the Transcaucasian Military District in Tbilisi. This was a warning action in connection with the bloody fact that occurred in the town of Gori on 13 June [the clash betweeen Georgian National Guardsmen and Russian troops resulting in some 15 deaths]. At the same time, the Republic of Georgia State Council has sent a demand that the question of the removal of troops of occupation from the republic be officially raised.

S. Ossetia Appeals for Russian Intervention

LD1606093392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0812 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, June 16 TASS—South Ossetian Parliamentary Speaker Torez Kulumbekov again appealed to the Russian Government to urgently send troops to the republic to divide the warring sides there. The appeal was caused by continuing shelling of Tskhinvali by Georgian militants which resulted in numerous casualties. Their exact number cannot be estimated at present.

80 per cent of living quarters and all objects of infrastructure were destroyed by the shelling which continued overnight on Tuesday [16 June]. Georgian militants use mortars, grenade launchers and machine-guns in their attacks on Tskhinvali.

Rescuers cannot get through to the combat zone to evacuate the wounded. However, the South Ossetian self-defence units fire in response in an attempt to surpress Georgian strongholds situated in the nearby villages.

The first peace-keeping unit arrived to Vladikavkaz, in North Ossetia. It was organised by the Confederation of Caucasian Highlanders and is headed by President of this non-governmental organisation Moussa Shanibov.

The state of emergecy introduced in North Ossetia helped stabilise the situation there. Reinforced army and police units constantly guard all military objects in the city, as well as the airport, the railway station, roads, and check all vehicles, Soslan Sikoyev, the military commandant of Vladikavkaz told TASS.

North Ossetia continues to block the highway and the gas pipeline going to Georgia in an attempt to force Georgian authorities to end the conflict.

However, the blockade also affects Armenia. Vigen Chicheyan, deputy Armenian prime minister held talks with North Ossetian parliamentarians asking them to resume gas supplies to Transcaucasia. He said Armenia is ready to mediate the Georgian-Ossetian conflict.

Protocol on S. Ossetia Signed With N. Ossetia

PM1206111592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Ali Kazikhanov report: "Georgian-Ossetian Cease-Fire Protocol Signed"]

[Text] Vladikavkaz—The leaders of Georgia and North Ossetia had a meeting in the Georgian village of Kazbegi 10 June.

The delegations, headed by Georgian State Council Chairman E. Shevardnadze and by A. Galazov, chairman of the North Ossetian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet, discussed the situation which has been created in South Ossetia and signed a protocol. Its 11 points contain mutual agreements on a cease-fire, on the creation of the necessary conditions for the return of refugees before the onset of winter, on the formation of a quadripartite commission of observers to monitor the treaty's fulfillment and of joint Georgian-Ossetian armed formations of former Afghan war servicemen...

The sides agreed that representatives of Russia and Armenia should participate in talks to resolve the protracted crisis. An appeal to all the parties and public movements in the two republics was adopted separately.

Will the Kazbegi meeting bring long-awaited peace to the land of the Caucasus? It is hard to answer this question today. The North Ossetian authorities are at present keeping the situation in check. Detachments of volunteers ready to go the assistance of their brothers in South Ossetia exist only on paper. True, the previous day approximately 10 howitzers were stolen, and the guns are now on the border between North and South Ossetia and at the southern entrance to the high-mountain Rokskiy Highway.

Some doubts about the fulfillment of the treaty's terms are occasioned by the Georgian side, which, it turns out, is not in control of the armed detachments fighting in South Ossetia.

People in North Ossetia have not forgotten the recent meeting in Vladikavkaz with a Georgian delegation, at which a similar agreement was also signed. Then, at the end of March, the sides also reached agreement on an immediate cease-fire, but it was never fulfilled. Hope is inspired, however, by the presence at the talks of T. Kitovani, first deputy prime minister and defense minister of Georgia—he might exert an influence on the Georgian fighting detachments.

The situation in North Ossetia is tense yet calm. The republic is continuing the energy blockade of Georgia. The Georgian Military Road is closed.

Georgian, Abkhaz Deputies' Meeting Noted

AU1406133092 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0200 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Text] On 13 June, a meeting of Georgian and Abkhaz deputies was held in the Abkhaz Supreme Council building in Sukhumi. Participants discussed the situation that had taken shape in Abkhazia, specifically in the parliament. The participants of the meeting adopted a joint address to the Abkhaz population whose text signed by 42 deputies including 18 Georgians, 19 Abkhaz, and five representatives of other nationalities was published yesterday in the Sukhumi newspapers. It is stated in the address: The meeting of Abkhaz and Georgian deputies has shown us the unity of parliamentarians in the aim to preserve peace in Abkhazia. The unplanned dialogue in Sukhumi is the result of the grief felt by each one of us for the fate of our electorate and their children. This dialogue has shown us that the Abkhaz parliament, contrary to the hasty predictions made by those who like sensations and serious political upheavals, has a real chance to continue its work.

Precisely taking this into account, the Abkhaz and Georgian deputies agreed to form parliamentary groups that will resolve difficulties and contradictions as quickly as possible and, in the near future, will inform society of the agreements reached.

Gamsakhurdia Said To Seek Azerbaijani Support

LD1306032692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 12 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] IPRINDA newspaper claims that an envoy of former Georgian President Gamsakhurdia visited Baku in an attempt to establish ties with Azerbaijan and to enlist support in the struggle against the present Georgian Government.

Shevardnadze on Importance of Arms Registration

LD1406135992 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1045 GMT 14 Jun 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Tbilisi—Chairman of the Georgian State Committee Eduard Shevardnadze: It is essential to register all weapons the population possess. According to the head of the Georgian State Committee, even if a decree banning possession of arms is issued and all available forces are engaged in confiscation of arms, a lot of weapons will still be possessed by the population, reported the newspaper ALIA SAARTVELODAN on June 13.

Eduard Shevardnadze emphasized that weapons should be obtained only by those who are known and trusted by the general public. The first deputy chairman of the Georgian state committee, Dzhaba Ioseliani also called for registration of weapons and said that the rate of robbery and armed assaults is stimulated by criminals' deliberations that a decent man possesses no arms.

Georgian Interior Minister Roman Gventadze told that large amounts of weapons stored by the population should be confiscated immediately.

Commentary on Shevardnadze's Situation

LD1406204592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Commentary by Petr Fil; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Few observers are inclined to link the Ossetian problem with the instability in Georgia. However, a few are already beginning to think seriously about the dramatic nature of Eduard Shevardnadze's situation.

Shevardnadze's candidacy for the head of the State Council did not have any competition. Georgia, where there was a coup d'etat—if one regards the stripping of Gamsakhurdia of his presidential seat as such—needed international recognition. Shevardnadze's name ensured this. However, the former Soviet foreign minister clearly did not intend to remain just an honored guest. In spite of this, almost all efforts to resolve Georgia's external and internal problems face numerous obstacles.

One of them is Tengiz Kitovani, Georgia's first vice-premier for defense. Whereas Shevardnadze personally advocated a peaceful settlement of the conflict with Ossetia, Kitovani called for vigorous actions with a view to eliminating the opponents in Tskhinvali. I would remind you that previously Gamsakhurdia also called on his compatriots for a crusade against this town; Kitovani was to no small extent instrumental in his overthrow.

The events of the past few days suggest that the military bloc in Georgia has gained the upper hand over the administrators. Tskhinvali is surrounded by Georgian armed formations which are shelling the town. Through the efforts of their guards, the self-defense detachments and volunteers from Vladikavkaz, the Ossetians are resisting the onslaught.

But it seems that a peace process is still possible, if Shevardnadze and his supporters are successful in the forthcoming parliamentary elections. However, who knows what form the present split in the Georgian leadership will take in that case. We can assume that Shevardnadze will be faced with a dilemma of extraordinary complexity. If he leaves, the conflict with Ossetia will worsen. If he remains, the great probability of a civil war in Georgia arises. Whatever happens, diarchy cannot continue eternally, and anarchy can lead to chaos.

Cooperation Talks With Iran Continue

LD1506212392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1915 GMT 15 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Kuzmin]

[Text] Tehran, June 15 TASS—Iran is to start supplying natural gas to Georgia in the near future, according to an announcement made after the meeting of the President of Iran, 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, with the Acting Prime Minister of Georgia, Tengiz Sigua, who is in Tehran at the head of a Georgian Government delegation.

Sigua handed over a message from the Chairman of the State Council of Georgia, Eduard Shevardnadze, stating Tbilisi's readiness to an all-round coordination with Iran.

The Iran-Georgian talks continued here today. The Georgian side noted that it is interested in getting an outlet to the Persian Gulf through the Iranian territory. Iran in its turn can make use of ports and territory of Georgia for the transportation of its goods to Europe.

Sigua and the Acting Foreign Minister of Georgia, Aleksandr Chikvaidze, emphasised, their country highly values Iran's efforts to find a solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh problem and wishes the continuation of Iran's mediation aimed at the liquidation of the hot spot of tension in the Caucasus region.

Gas Supply Agreement Signed With Turkmenistan

AU1606080692 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0200 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] A Georgian delegation headed by Roman Gotsiridze, deputy chairman of the Georgian Government, has been in Turkmenistan to establish a commercial and economic agreement for 1992 between Georgia and Turkmenistan. The most important concern for Georgia in relations with Turkmenistan is the supply of natural gas. The aforementioned agreement and its signing has been delayed for months due to many reasons. The matter has been complicated by the sharp increase in the price of natural gas, the considerable delay in delivery of goods form Georgia for well-known reasons, and so forth. Following complex negotiations, an agreement was signed guaranteeing the regular delivery to Georgia of approximately 5 and one-half billion cubic meters of natural gas.

State Council Approves Decision To Join IRBD

OW1506172692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1641 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Report by Andrei Pershin, Andrei Petrovsky, and Vladimir Shishlin from "Presidential Bulletin;" transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Georgian State Council approved the decision on Georgia's joining the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development [IRBD] and on the acquisition of this bank's 1,000 shares worth 10 million ECU [European Community units] or 11.67 million US dollars during the period from 1992 to 1995. The Georgian government has been instructed to pay 2.8 million US dollars for this purpose and 700,000 US dollars, annually, during the three subsequent years.

Lithuania

Results Issued on Army Pullout Referendum

LD1506161792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1458 GMT 15 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Kazis Ustsila]

[Text] Vilnius June 15 TASS—"Lithuania's residents gave us an additional argument to demand that the Army of the former Soviet Union be withdrawn from Lithuania in 1992," Lithuanian Parliament Leader Vytautas Landsbergis said summing up the results of a referendum on the unconditional and immediate withdrawal of the Army in the current year and compensation for the damage caused to Lithuania. The poll was held in the republic on June 14.

Lithuanian Election Commission Deputy Chairman Vaclovas Litvinas acquainted journalists in greater detail with the tentative results of the referendum. He said almost two million people or some 76 percent of eligible citizens took part in the vote. Almost 91 percent of the participants in the ballot favoured pulling out troops immediately and compensating for the damage wrought, some seven percent put "no" on their ballot papers and about two percent of the ballot papers appeared to be invalid for being wrongly marked.

About 69 percent of all citizens of the Lithuanian republic, who were registered as participants in the referendum, voted in favour of moving the Army out and some 5.5 percent of eligible voters—were against.

Landsbergis, speaking about the results of the referendum, expressed the view that this summer should reveal if Russia really begins withdrawing large numbers of troops from major places of their deployment, first and foremost Vilnius.

"It is necessary that a specific talk on the Army withdrawal timetable be begun," Landsbergis emphasised. He thinks the Russian side's attempts to explain the delay by difficulties involved in the provision of servicemen and their family members with housing is not grounded enough. He supported this statement with the argument that the requirements for housing and specific wishes have not yet been named despite repeated requests.

Landsbergis expressed the view that the delay with the withdrawal was caused by "political reasons" and also "the Russian military leadership's desire to preserve their positions in Lithuania as long as possible."

Landsbergis voiced the supposition that "the firm and unequivocal will of Lithuania's residents" can help solve the issues involved in the withdrawal of the Army of the former USSR from the Baltic states at the forthcoming Helsinki conference. He spoke out for international organisations to pay more attention to this process. In Landsbergis's view, the results of last Sunday's [14 June] referendum in Lithuania "will bolster the Baltic states' uniform stance".

Landsbergis 'Pleased' With Referendum Outcome

LD1506221192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0700 GMT 15 Jun 92

[News conference held in Vilnius Supreme Council Hall attended and addressed by Lithuanian Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis and Vaclovas Litvinas, head of the Lithuanian Electoral Commission, including question and answer session; moderated by Darius Silas—live]

[Text] [Words indistinct] referendum, concerning the withdrawal of the former USSR Army from Lithuania, and also concerning Esteemed Landsbergis' trip to the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. I shall first yield the floor to Esteemed Litvinas and then to the Supreme Council chairman. Please reserve your questions for the period following the speeches of both the participants. Esteemed Litvinas please begin.

[Litvinas] [Words indistinct] According to the data obtained by the Republic Electoral Commission based upon city and rayon referendum commissions' protocols, we can already report to you on the preliminary results [words indistinct] the general number of voters eligible to vote in the referendum which took place yesterday on the territory of the Republic of Lithuania amounts to 2,540,043 Lithuanian citizens. Of those, 1,924,328 turned out to vote in the referendum. This comprises 75.76 percent. Those who answered yes to the question presented in the referendum amounted to 1,744,135, which equals 90.76 percent of those who turned out. The no answer was selected by 140,051 citizens, or approximately 7 percent of the number of those who turned out. The number of ballots adjudged as invalid equals 37,500—1.95 percent.

The final number of those in favor of the referendum assertion, taking into account the general number of voters, currently amounts to 68.67 percent. The number of those who stated no, taking into account the general number of voters, comprises 5.51 percent from the general number of voters. To date, we do not have information on the voting results in the referendum districts which have been set up in the embassies and consular offices of the Republic of Lithuania in foreign countries. This completes the statistical data.

[Silas] Thank you. I would now like to invite the Supreme Council chairman to speak.

[Landsbergis] I think we can all be pleased with the referendum results. It was very important to verify whether the people understand the importance of participating in a referendum of this type, since certain opinions were being spread that perhaps this referendum is not all that necessary, that its goal is not very clear. Moreover, special attempts were made at misleading the people, even up to the last days. Here a certain not very characteristic duck was released by Moscow Television to disturb people's minds. There were other such matters. Therefore, we can be pleased with the fact that the people did manage to discern, within the current situation and in Lithuania's historical missions and problems, our requests—those of the Lithuanian State leaders and also of the negotiation delegation, and of all those who carry out the foreign policy—for people to support, through their votes, this policy with strict demands to withdraw the foreign army very speedily. To be specific, this year. The people understood and gave us additional arguments in support of this political job.

For us (?the) referendum results could not be based on guesswork, that which we we were carrying out—we the individuals who hold within our hands this foreign policy and the questions of the army withdrawal—inasmuch as that is dependent on us. Thus also, in recent days we had to work [words indistinct], since it was mentioned here that the Rio de Janeiro conference will also be touched upon at the news conference, undoubtedly its contents are known to the international press.

One of the functions of our delegation at the Rio conference was to participate, to discuss, and to speak out. I also gave a report at the plenary session of the conference and had to sign [word indistinct] convention, which I have signed on behalf of Lithuania. But I also had no fewer than 11 official meetings with state leaders. For the most part these were meetings organized by the Supreme Council chairmen of all of the three Baltic states, and some visits as well by the presidents of other states, or else meetings with prime ministers.

Among such important meetings can be included a significant conversation with German Chancellor Kohl, with Spanish Prime Minister Gonzalez, and with President of Argentina Menem. I am not going to list all of them—with Austrian Chancellor Vranitzky, and President of Hungary Goncz, etc. I had a very sincere conversation with the prime minister of India. Everywhere, we raised as the most important question the withdrawal of the foreign army from the Baltic states, and the quest for such international political support was met everywhere with great benevolence and, let us say, a promise or a determination of support in international forums and in various high level meetings.

Thus, that which is transpiring in Lithuania, this referendum, the vote, and our diplomatic and political efforts in international forums and meetings do coincide.

I think that this summer we will have to answer this question in a principal fashion. Does the withdrawal of the Russian Army really begin in a visible and tangible manner, in large numbers, and from the most important areas of deployment, such as the 107th Division in Vilnius? Of course, with clarification provided on why an army made up of strictly an assault force continues to be deployed in the Baltic states, and whose presence here has nothing in common with any sort of Russian defensive interests. Moreover, this question is currently in truth not a question raised by us. It is included in the agenda of many [word indistinct] as for instance, the future meeting of the Helsinki Summit Meeting in July, and it is very good that the citizens of Lithuania with their vote have also expressed a very firm and clear will.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Chairman, could you possibly tell us in more detail about the type of assistance that was promised by German Chancellor Kohl [word indistinct]?

[Landsbergis] Currently, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl told me that he himself will raise this question in Lisbon and Munich, especially at the citizens' [word indistinct] meeting in Munich, and also in his meeting with Boris Yeltsin. He was interested to learn what the motives for the non-withdrawal are, how we ourselves assess them, and whether the statements regarding social needs and the shortage of apartments are the principal reason. Moreover, all three of us [Baltic leaders] told him that in our estimation this does not constitute the principal reason, it is more of a pretext.

We have invited Mr. Kohl to pay us a visit, to visit our countries. He has accepted this invitation, and a time will be agreed upon [word-indistinct].

[INTERFAX correspondent] Mr. Chairman, could you comment on one figure [words indistinct], namely that approximately one-fourth of the voters—approximately 25 percent—did not say yes. They have either stayed away or else a small percentage said yes; thus in your estimation is this a large percentage or a small one, and how do you assess this [words indistinct]?

[Landsbergis] I think this constitutes a rather normal percentage of passive citizens. I would by no means regard this in the fashion of some making an assessment in the earlier referendum, that those who are passive are in truth active. Because one who is passive is passive. Whoever wanted to, came, voted, said no, and expressed himself in opposition; otherwise all sorts of reasons arise about why people simply failed to vote. It does not mean that their opinion is particularly negative.

[Unidentified correspondent] Esteemed chairman, have you had a meeting with President of Poland Walesa?

[Landsbergis] Are you asking about Rio? I have not completely understood your question.

[Correspondent] It was announced that you would meet in Poland with President Walesa.

[Landsbergis] Oh, I did not hear your question. No, this meeting has not yet taken place. It was not really firmly agreed upon. It was being coordinated as a sort of possibility, because I was to return by way of Warsaw, and did indeed return through Warsaw. However, as you know, the situation is very complicated in Poland, and yesterday as a matter of fact, the Solidarity conference was taking place in Gdansk. Besides, President Walesa was a participant there, thus such a possibility was very remote and [word indistinct] it was not fullfilled, and it would not have been accomplished because also of other [word indistinct], since the plane I travelled across the Atlantic on was late and I missed the plane I was supposed to take to Warsaw. Consequently we spent a very long time at Madrid Airport. [Word indistinct] I only returned to Lithuania overnight. Therefore, this meeting would have fallen through even if it had been planned. Another time, perhaps.

[LIETUVOS AIDAS correspondent] I would like to ask Mr. Litvinas when the final results of the 23 May referendum will be [word indistinct].

[Litvinas] The 23 May results are now at the republic electoral commission. They have been confirmed, and everything, including the results of 14 June, will be submitted together. [Words indistinct] during that period, since there were many complaints, we have been examining them—you are well aware of that. We are trying to make sure that no kind of violation of the referendum law remains unnoticed, so that all the complaints are dealt with.

[Unidentified correspondent in English] Mr. Chairman, what concrete steps will you do to force the ex-Soviet Army out of Lithuania? I also, thought about the...[changes thought] Mr. Mitterand recently said that said that 1992 deadline would be unrealistic.

[Landsbergis] It is of great importance to us that our position is universally known and that it is reflected in certain international relations, or principles of state relations. Perhaps the type of situation which now exists in Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia has never existed before, namely that the army of a former occupying state remains in the occupied countries, even after that state ceases to exist.

This is like a hammer without an owner who knows what it can be capable of. Previously, we were very concerned and raised this question to the status of an international issue, because an army which is not subordinated to any constitutional or civil administration is a particularly dangerous thing. Currently, this army is formally subordinate to Russia—the Russian civilian administration—a law-based, constitutional administration.

However, we are not always sure whether the army is entirely subordinate. Thus, there are two aspects of our demand for its withdrawal; one concerns Russia's responsibility, the other concerns the international responsibility for the situation in the entire Baltic region.

It must be made totally clear who is issuing orders to whom and who is responsible for what. However, if this is not an armed force that is not being controlled and is dangerous, some kind of counterbalance must be created for it. At the very least, international attention must be paid. International organizations must set up some kind of control, some system of monitoring, some fact-finding commissions. Various mechanisms exist that can be utilized to make sure that this army is being disciplined, because its behavior in Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia is dangerous.

Its presence is one matter, and its behavior another. In both instances, we wish to see a very clear position on the part of Russia and some international support. International demand will help to clearly define that position and to obtain the results I have mentioned.

A clearly visible withdrawal—the start of this withdrawal—would constitute specific results. I discussed this with President Yeltsin during our meeting in Moscow. He was of the same opinion, that a clear start must be made.

[Unidentified correspondent] Is it possible to consider that yesterday's referendum provides the basis for this in the event of Lithuania refusing in July to sign the Helsinki Declaration on Security, along with the state whose army is deployed on its territory? Apparently, such an idea was voiced by the Estonians some time ago.

[Landsbergis] There are some thoughts of this nature in existence as you know, but this does not constitute Lithuania's position alone. This is the demand of the three Baltic states, and it makes it possible to influence the Helsinki process prior to the Helsinki meeting. I think we will resolve this question together—all three countries—despite the fact that there was no referendum in Latvia and Estonia, but there was one in Lithuania. However, our referendum helps and fortifies the common position, too.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, are there any plans for joint action by the three Baltic States to encourage a Russian withdrawal following the referendum—any sort of joint action involving all three Baltic States?

[Landsbergis] We have common political actions, all the time, even in Rio De Janeiro. We have met and prepared a joint document—a joint statement by the leaders of three states—which will be disseminated at the United Nations, and it could also be provided for you here. It was announced yesterday.

The most important position here, is this—I can read one paragraph for you: The three Baltic countries, Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia, are convinced that the army of one CSCE member state may not be deployed on another CSCE state's territory without the latter state's consent.

This statement concerns the states participating in the Helsinki Accord process and in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Our text also says: Should this happen, it would be tantamount to armed coercion and intervention. It would undermine the principles of the UN Charter and the Helsinki process.

We consider this to be a matter of principle, in our case in particular, but also for state relations in general, and we believe that this should obtain some support.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Landsbergis] It was a pleasure to meet with the Argentine president and to thank him for his support in our struggle to regain our independence, since in one sense he was an initiator—Argentina was the first Latin American country to recognize our restored independence. Moreover, when we told him of our most important current concerns, President Menem stated that he will support this position of ours in all forums and in all organizations. He fully comprehends that our countries do not yet have full independence. While the army is not withdrawn we are constrained, our security is not assured, and this must be resolved.

I was able to ask him—I was pleased to note that in Argentina, a commercial Argentina-Lithuania building has been established in Buenos Aires—to encourage bilateral trade and other economic relations; I asked him to give it more impetus by devoting some of his attention to that institution. I also discussed a specific question, namely the supply of grain from Argentina and Argentine state credits for this. The Argentina president stated that this is entirely within the realm of possibility. We also exchanged official invitations for official visits.

[LIETUVOS RYTAS correspondent] I would like to ask when a meeting with the Russian president is planned. Do you know whether he has been informed of the referendum results, and, if he has been advised of them, what his reactions were?

[Landsbergis] I don't know. Perhaps the information was passed on today. I haven't asked him, after all. I don't quite understand your question. When is a meeting planned? No more was said about it—we haven't agreed on any specific date or meeting. We have a verbal agreement that, should some problem crop up—or at least should matters fail to progress—we will maintain contact by telephone. If necessary we will hold further meetings, but without any specific date.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, you said earlier that the social problems are only a pretext. What are the real reasons for the Soviet Army's [word indistinct]?

[Landsbergis] This was the common opinion of the parliamentary chairmen of the three Baltic countries. We understand that certain problems, problems in relocation, do exist, but it is also our experience that the Russian side is not really attempting to do anything about this problem, or is even avoiding it entirely.

We have asked them many times to provide us with either lists or statistics on the number of families of these officers, where they would like to relocate , where houses should be built, and things of that nature. Perhaps there could be an opportunity for exchanges, or some sort of compensation, or even the kind of construction assistance we have been promised by the Scandinavian countries.

However, to be able to view the matter in a specific light, one needs specificity from the other side. Since we have not obtained a single name of a single family, or any sort of number, we are coming to the conclusion that this is just something the Russians have thought up in order to have something to say. Moreover, they are making no great efforts, nor are they even displaying any great desire, to resolve, and to resolve quickly, the officers' relocation problem. A similar conclusion is being drawn in Latvia and Estonia.

I can also add, in case no one has noticed, that I have taken [word indistinct] my own initiative on this, and have tasked the Ministry of Defense to gather some data from the Russian officers now living in Lithuania by using a kind of poll. How do they envision their relocation? What sort of compensation would they like to obtain? Which Russian regions they would like to move to?

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, if housing is not the problem, what is?

[Landsbergis] I think the real problem, if we can describe it as such, is a political one. It seems that the Russian military leaders want to preserve their position here. Perhaps they have not yet abandoned their old idea that there is a hostile world around the Soviet Union and that the best defense against this hostile world is to expand their territory or spheres of influence. It seems quite difficult to change this way of thinking, and to get them to realize that we need zones of peace, friendship, and good cooperation around us, and not zones of military presence.

It is quite possible to imagine that leaders who think like this would like to keep their troops here as a kind of obstacle to our economic liberation and all-round contacts with the Western world, because the troops' presence here is a great obstacle to investments. When we do not have sufficiently developed cooperation with other countries, in investment and so on, we are economically restricted and therefore more dependent on Russia. This kind of political motive could exist as well.

There may also be a psychological motive, possibly due to a sense of uncertainty. Perhaps some ex-CPSU political forces think that if the troops remain here, they could perhaps render assistance if the former Soviet Communist Party returned to power, and could help bring the whole of the former Soviet Union under its control.

[Unidentified correspondent] Commenting on the referendum, Moscow television said yesterday that the results would give Lithuania a trump card in the negotiations. Do you think the results of the referendum in the Ignalina, Salcininkai, and Vilnius regions will perhaps give Moscow certain advantages in the negotiations?

[Landsbergis] There has always been speculation and there always will be. What matter to us, however, is the main result and not that of some individual area, be it Salcininkai, Pakruojis, or any other.

[Silas] The chairman's agenda is rather full, so two more questions please.

[Unidentified correspondent] Esteemed chairman, what is your assessment of the recent promotion given to Mironov, the former group commander of the North West Armed Forces?

[Landsbergis] I am not sure if I should guess about this. The fact that Mironov was here in Riga and in Vilnius on more than one occasion, that we are acquainted with him, that we managed to reach an agreement on some things, as for example in the case of Colonel Chernykh, and that his promotion means that in Moscow he will be nearer to the places where even more important decisions are made, may perhaps sometimes help our negotiators to find a better understanding. We are acquaintances after all.

[Unidentified correspondent] Have the Russians mentioned any other problem besides building houses for the withdrawing servicemen?

[Landsbergis] Officially only this pretext has been raised. However, sometimes they mentioned anti-aircraft strategic matters, saying that it would not be easy for Russia to restructure them quickly. However, no specific question has been raised. On the contrary, we note that when the Russian military leadership decides to make a show of apparently withdrawing a small group of servicemen, it is a small part of the antiaircraft defenses that are withdrawn, and not, say, paratroops, which are the most dangerous assault troops. Therefore in this respect there are contradictions, and we cannot guess what is behind them. Perhaps the time will come when concrete talk can begin. We have wanted all this time to start real talk concerning the timetable for the withdrawal of the troops—which units will be withdrawn, when, and from where. Unfortunately, at the moment we cannot say this.

[Silas] I would like to thank Chairman Landsbergis and [word indistinct] as well as the television viewers and the journalists.

Reports on Landsbergis Stand on Pullout Viewed

LD1406051392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Commentary by correspondent Mikhail Osokin; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Various reports in Lithuania indicate that 60,000-100,000 former Soviet Army servicemen are in Lithuania. The authorities have made the immediate withdrawal of these troops to Russia one of the main points of their entire policy. However, those in Moscow say that this is physically impossible. There is no housing for the troops in the new locations, which means that their withdrawal will take several years. The situation has forced Baltic politicians to try and attract the West's attention to their dispute with Moscow in any way possible. Some methods look extremely unique. For example, two military facilities in Estonia which had practically been evacuated by Russian troops were ceremoniously seized. Such actions coincided with the meeting of NATO leaders in Oslo; obviously, this looked like an attempt to whip up tension to show off to the West. They chose a more civilized method in Lithuania, with the help of a referendum to demonstrate the need for the swiftest possible solution to a problem like the withdrawal of Russian troops. However, interesting elements have cropped up. It is possible that Lithuanian parliament leader Landsbergis, the main initiator of the referendum, has changed his attitude to this subject somewhat, contrary to his public statements. Observers continue to be tormented by the mystery of his recent lightning visit to Moscow, when he said that he had a very good meeting with President Yeltsin and that agreement had been reached on a range of issues. Some suggest that Landsbergis gave up his categorical stand on the immediate withdrawal of the troops in Moscow and, in exchange, managed to get Yeltsin to promise to supply oil to Lithuania. These reports suggest that Landsbergis hopes to lessen somewhat the acuteness of the fuel crisis which has struck the Lithuanian economy. He is also striving to strengthen his position on the eve of parliamentary elections. Whether this is the case or not and whether Vilnius's approaches to the deadlines for withdrawing the troops have changed will all become clear after the referendum, from the further actions of the Lithuanian authorities.

'Fabrication' of Landsbergis Comments Rejected

LD1406185992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1538 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Text] Vilnius, 14 June (ELTA-TASS)—Ceslovas Stankevicius, deputy chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet and head of the state delegation at talks with the Russian Federation, has dismissed reports by some sections of the mass media that during a meeting in Moscow Vitautas Landsbergis dropped his ultimatum concerning the immediate withdrawal of Russian troops from Lithuanian territory after obtaining a promise from Boris Yeltsin of oil supplies, since the republic is currently experiencing a fuel crisis. Landsbergis's aim, according to commentators, is to strengthen his position on the eve of the new parliamentary elections.

According to Stankevicius, "this commentary is a complete fabrication." He added: "In this way, attempts are being made to exert influence on the results of the referendum and cast doubts on Lithuania's firm demand that the Soviet Army be withdrawn from the republic's territory this year."

Landsbergis, Walesa Talks Fail To Materialize

OW1506144192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1411 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The unofficial meeting between Chairman of the Lithuanian parliament Vytautas Landsbergis and Polish President Lech Walesa, scheduled for Sunday [14 June], did not take place. The Lithuanian leader was to meet with the Polish president in Warsaw on his way back from Rio de Janeiro, where he attended the International Ecological Forum.

The news that the meeting would not take place was announced by telephone to the Lithuanian Charge d'Affairs in Warsaw by a representative of the Polish Foreign Ministry, although the cause of such a decision was not given.

Vytautas Landsbergis said during a press conference in Vilnius on Monday [15 June] that the postponement was obviously due to President Walesa's preparations for the congress of the Solidarity. The other reason might be the fact that he was late for the plane bound to Poland, said Landsbergis.

Prosecutor's Office Makes Inquiry Into Coup

OW1506144492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1411 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Criminal Investigation Department of the Lithuanian General Procurator's Office is completing the investigation of the state coup on January 11-13, 1991.

The investigation revealed that the Soviet troops and their accomplices committed crimes against the state of Lithuania and its citizens.

The tragic results of the state coup are as follows:

—one person was killed near the building of Lithuanian radio and TV (not counting a killed Soviet soldier); 7 people were gravely wounded; 31 people were wounded; 45 people were injured.

—near the TV tower 13 people were killed, 15 were gravely wounded, 163 were wounded, 177 received injuries causing temporary illness and 62 received injuries which caused no damage to their health;

—in front of the Press Center 2 people were gravely wounded; 11 were wounded; 23 received injuries causing temporary illness and 8 received slight injuries.

—in front of the building of the Lithuanian parliament 2 people received slight injuries which caused temporary illness, and 2 slight injuries which caused no damage to their health.